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Hammer murderer is handed life term

A MAN who bludgeoned his best friend to death has been jailed for life for murder.

William Spence must serve a minimum of 17 years for killing Kevin Jones who died of brain injuries following an argument between the two men at the house they shared in Buxton Road, Dudley.

On Tuesday spence was found guilty of the murder and causing actual bodily harm to Mr Jones' mother, Jean, as she tried to protect her son during the hammer attack.

Spence, aged 39, was convicted at Wolverhampton Crown Court. The family of Mr Jones looked on and hugged each other as the verdict was read out.

During the trial the court heard five fatal blows with a hammer were rained on Mr Jones' head.

The pair had been arguing at the house.

Mrs Jones had told the court she heard a "tremendous bang" as her son Kevin, 47, fell from the top of the stairs to the hallway following the row.

She told how she lay across his body and tried to wake him while Spence, known by his nickname Dec, stood near them.

Spence turned to walk upstairs, Mrs Jones said, returning "within seconds" holding a hammer with which he hit her.

Fraud case adjourned

A DUDLEY woman has admitted a £25,000 benefits fraud.

Denise Lomas, aged 57, of Maple Road, claimed just over £19,000 in housing benefit and almost £5,000 in council tax benefit between 2004 and 2007.

The total overpayment was £24,285.49.

She appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court on Monday, speaking only to confirm her name, address and age and to enter guilty pleas to 10 charges.

The case was adjourned until January 28.

EXTRA CASES COST HOSPITAL £2.5m

by Andrew Turton

HOSPITAL bosses in Dudley were forced spend an additional £2.5m on extra staff and beds in recent months to treat hundreds of extra patients.

Around 800 more patients came through Russells Hall in the seven months to the end of October than the same period last year. Hospital bosses said they had to bring in more staff and additional beds in order to cope with the unexpected increase.

Latest figures show 22,500 patients came into the hospital either for emergency medical treatment or surgery during those seven months. This equated to an increase of 3.6 per cent in emergency admissions year-on-year, according to the hospital trust.

Bad parking tickets tally hits 2,000

MORE than 2,000 parking tickets have been handed out to staff, patients and visitors to Russells Hall in 20 months, new figures claim.

Motorists receive fines for parking on red lines, leaving vehicles in disabled bays without a badge and obstructing access to the accident and emergency department.

They cost drivers £15 if paid within two weeks otherwise the fine doubles.

Cash is ploughed back into running the hospital with any surplus going to charity.

A total of 2,045 tickets handed out between April 2011 and November 2012.

The hospital began clamping down on inappropriate parking at the site in January last year. There had been complaints about cars being left blocking the path of ambulances.

Red lines were painted around staff car parks on the site to show hospital workers where they can and cannot park.

There were already red lines elsewhere within the grounds, including by the accident and emergency department, in a bid to stop drivers causing a nuisance.

Neighbours of the hospital have complained for many years about inconsiderate parking.

The council has now brought in further parking restrictions around the site in an attempt to reduce congestion which plagues residential roads.

Trust chief executive Paula Clark said the increase was in line with national figures of 3.8 per cent.

"Accommodating more people who arrive at Russells Hall Hospital as an emergency means we have had to be more selective about how we plan operations for people who elect to come to hospital," she said.

"This in turn has caused our income for planned operations to be lower than anticipated.

"Extra emergency patients also mean we have needed to open up additional beds and employ more staff through our own staff bank, and from agencies at a higher cost."

Emergencies

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation runs a staff bank system to ensure that it has enough staff to call on during emergencies.

Their contracts mean medical staff are on call but have no guarantee of employment or pay.

These staff help cover annual leave, maternity leave, sickness and short-term vacancies.

But this system has been called into question nationwide by Labour shadow health secretary Andy Burnham who says there are fears about continuity of care.

Dudley has 3,059 employed in the staff bank while Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust has 2,227 staff under the same conditions.

At Walsall NHS Trust there are 1,612 people on zero hour contracts and Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust said there were 435 bank staff.

Zoo Nooz is good news for Jill



Head of media and communications, Jill Hitchman, who has won a national award

DUDLEY Zoo's media and communications boss has won a national award for the attraction's quarterly magazine.

Jill Hitchman said she was delighted to win the Plain English Award for ZooNooz, which covers stories and images of the animal collection, staff activities and historic buildings within the 40-acre site.

The former journalist edits and designs the full-colour 28-page magazine.

Ms Hitchman said: "The judges were impressed with the informative style and clear layout of ZooNooz and we beat off tough competition from hundreds of entries

across the country to take the award. The magazine started off as a humble four-page and has grown in size and readership over 15 years.

It is now read by DZG members and supporters across the globe, including school children in Canada, ex-pats in Australia, Army wives in Germany and MPs in the House of Commons."

The award brings double success for Jill who gained a Plain English Crystal Award for the zoo site's Annual Review in 2004.

Her work includes writing zoo book Towers and Tectons: A View From The Hill.

Borough's schools plummet in tables

DUDLEY has plummeted down the national school league tables despite youngsters achieving improved standard assessment tests (SATs) results this year.

The borough fell 19 places to 118 out of 152 local authorities, according to data from the Department for Education (DfE).

Last year 73 per cent of youngsters in Dudley achieved Level four or above in English and maths compared with 77 per cent this year.

Council cabinet member for education, Tim Crumpton, was quick to defend the performance of schools across the borough.

He said improvements were being made in primaries. "It is more important to me to see us progressing locally, if we weren't, then I would be concerned," he added.

Nationally, the number of primary schools failing to give pupils a good grounding in the three Rs has halved in the space of a year.

Pedmore CE Primary in Stourbridge was the best performing school in Dudley, after every pupil who took the Key Stage 2 exams achieved Level 4 or above in English and maths.

Funds plan for theatre

CAMPAIGNERS battling to save Dudley Hippodrome are launching a fundraising drive aimed to pull in more than £250,000 for their plans to reopen the theatre.

They hope people will sign up to the initiative which mirrors similar schemes used by Wolverhampton Grand Theatre and Birmingham Hippodrome.

Patrons will be able to sponsor seats in the 1,752-seater theatre or join up to become members, with benefits including ticket deals.

Spokesman Geoff Fitzpatrick said the group would become a charitable trust. He said no payments would be made until their plans have the go-ahead.

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Artwork aims to brighten things up

A decorated shop front has been unveiled in Halesowen as part of an art scheme to improve the image of empty units.

Black Country artist Luke Perry was behind the artwork at the corner of Long Lane and Nimmings Road, Shell Corner. It is the first in a series of pieces planned to spruce up empty shop fronts in the borough and comes after Dudley Council received £52,623 from the Govern-

ment's £3million Empty Shop fund to brighten up its shopping areas. Halesowen councillor Jeff Hill said: "The idea is to make the area look more welcoming. It's not a substitute for having businesses operating in there, of course, but the hope is it will make Shell Corner a brighter place to shop."

In February, Dudley Council's cabinet agreed to allocate £10,000 of the Government funding to each of

the four main town centres and £790 to each of the 16 district and local centres in the borough.

This £790 has then been match-funded by area committee allocations to make a total of £1,580 for the smaller centres, including Shell Corner.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Melvyn Mottram had the honour of unveiling the artwork at the weekend. It says Welcome to Shell Corner

and features an image of an artillery shell, similar to one which was previously there.

"This is the first of several pieces of artwork and I look forward to seeing how they will all fit together to make this area even more welcoming," said Councillor Hill.

He added: "Residents have been pleased to see the restoration work taking place. Now we're looking forward to seeing the other art."

Extra places on trains as track works to start

AROUND 10,000 extra seats on trains are being made available this weekend as work shuts the line between Stafford, the Black Country and London.

Chiltern Railways is offering the extra seats because Virgin Trains will only run an hourly service from London Euston to Nuneaton and Coventry on Sunday and Christmas Eve.

Charlie in new battle to conquer leukaemia

A MIDLANDS boy who is bravely battling leukaemia for the second time, is having a pioneering new treatment.

Charlie Harris-Beard, aged two, of Kidderminster is being cared for by staff at Birmingham Children's Hospital after receiving the trial drug and also under-going chemotherapy.

The treatment is giving his newly-married parents fresh hope.

His family were told doctors in this country had no cure for his condition.

But in an update to well-wishers on the family's Facebook page, his mother Fiona, revealed he had finished the first round of treatment, she said: "Now it's just a long wait to see if it's worked the magic we so desperately need."

Charlie's sister and cousin have also been updating followers, known as Charlie's Army.

Charlie has started the Aurora Kinase treatment, a drug which is administered over 72 hours every 21 days via intravenous infusion.

The drug is intended to inhibit cancer growth by blocking the enzymes which cause cancer cells to grow.

His mother Fiona said: "If this goes well it would give a partial remission."

The Birmingham to Scotland service will continue as usual. Passengers wanting to go between Stafford, Wolverhampton and Sandwell and Dudley will have to get off at Coventry and change trains.

Trains will still run in and out of Wolverhampton and throughout the Black Country so Virgin said its passengers will not be expected to use replacement buses.

However, Virgin is recommending its customers get off the train in Birmingham, walk to Moor Street station and use its' rival Chiltern Railways' line to go to London Marylebone instead.

Spending

The weekend work heralds the start of extensive maintenance over the Christmas period.

Network Rail is spending £125 million on signalling work at Bletchley near Milton Keynes.

Over Christmas the company will be bringing the new system into operation, closing an old signal box and moving control to Rugby.

Chiltern spokesman Emma Gascoigne said: "Chiltern Railways are providing over 10,000 additional seats for passengers travelling on December 23 and 24."

"On Christmas Eve the company is advising customers to carefully check their last train time home."

"The last train leaving London Marylebone going to Stourbridge Junction will be at 8.15pm and the last train leaving Birmingham Snow Hill to London Marylebone will also be at 8.15pm."

Reindeer stars of zoo show



Trainee keeper Jo Turner with one of the reindeer on show at Dudley Zoo

DUDLEY Zoo is holding daily talks and feeding sessions for Santa's reindeer with daily through to the New Year.

Every weekend and weekday during the Christmas school holidays, there will be talks at 11.15am and 12.45pm at the reindeer paddock, which is located alongside the site's vintage chairlift on the Zoo's upper level. Presenters will also be showcasing antlers dropped by alpha male deer, Hail,

during his annual moulting season. This year the zoo has a Jack and the Beanstalk-themed groto complete with a UV beanstalk as part of Santa's Magical Winter Wonderland. It has inspired staff at the site to grow their own beans. They planted seedlings and have been watching them grow in the run-up to Christmas. The Winter Wonderland runs at the attraction through until Christmas Eve.

Olympic success gym club to move

A GYMNASTICS club famous for producing Olympic medal-winning talent has unveiled plans to move from its Halesowen home.

Earls Gymnastics Club hopes to move to bigger premises in Netherton.

It is hoped the move for the gym, which is the training base for Olympic bronze medallist Kristian Thomas from Earls High School to a large unit at Westminister Industrial Estate, Cradley Road, will secure its future.

The sport's governing body British Gymnastics has helped finance the move alongside donations and other funding.

A planning application for the new gym has been submitted to Dudley Council for consideration in the coming weeks.

Club supporter and campaigner Councillor Ken Turner said: "It would have been nice for the club to stay in Halesowen but it is an opportunity that the club had to look at after it became available."

"We are pleased as it is most important that the club is able to prosper for its young members," said Councillor Turner.

Fire chief's cuts fears

A FIRE chief in the Black Country has warned that cuts to the service may continue for at least another five years.

Dudley operations commander Andy Grosvenor said, while the worst of the cuts to the service were expected during the next two years, the tough times were not likely to be over then. He said: "We believe there will be further cuts through to at least 2017 and we don't know what the service will look like then."

About a third of the fire service's funds come from council tax.

Council Twitter

RESIDENTS and businesses can now raise issues with Dudley Council customer services directly with the launch of a new Twitter link.

The staff in Castle Street, Dudley, deal with more than 400,000 queries a year. Dudley Council Plus is now on Twitter at @DudleyPlus

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Theatre plans to be a trust

CAMPAIGNERS battling to save Dudley Hippodrome have said the organisation would become a charitable trust upon sealing a deal to keep the theatre open.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group spokesman Geoff Fitzpatrick said it would then run the theatre as a community charity to promote the arts while also taking over day-to-day running of the venue, in Castle Hill, Dudley.

Fundraising options being considered include a sponsor a seat scheme where members pay £250 either in one amount or spread over payments.

They would be an inscribed plaque placed on each chair bearing the sponsor's name.

Campaigners say this scheme would partly help offset the costs of installing new seats, thought to be around £143 each.

People could become friends of Dudley Hippodrome for £100 a year, which would qualify for gift aid should the organisation become a charity. Campaigners plan to hold a fundraising gig at JB's nightclub, neighbouring the theatre in Castle Hill, on January 25.

Free shuttle bus laid on

A FREE shuttle bus service has been launched for shoppers visiting Dudley's Merry Hill Centre in the run-up to Christmas.

It will run on December 22 and 23 from the Waterfront. It comes as the centre introduces extending opening hours giving people the chance to shop until midnight all next week.

Merry Hill bosses say the bus service will help to make it easier for people to visit the centre.

The shuttle bus runs from 9am until 8pm on Saturdays and from 11am until 5pm on Sundays. Shoppers should follow the Santa signs as they drive in.

Accident ruling

A VERDICT of accidental death has been recorded on a Kidderminster cyclist, who was in a crash with a lorry in the town's Stourport Road.

Arthur William Bough, aged 78, of Woodward Road, died due to shock and haemorrhage, an inquest in Stourport heard.

Tributes as music man Bob dies, aged 74



Bob Nash who ran Modern Music for 35 years

Retired Dudley music shop owner Bob Nash, who is credited with keeping the likes of Led Zeppelin, Slade and Roy Wood on the road, has died aged 74.

Mr Nash ran Modern Music, opposite the Hippodrome in Castle Hill, Dudley, for 35 years, supplying hundreds of local bands and musicians with equipment and a repair service. Robert Plant and John Bonham, of Led Zeppelin, Noddy Holder and his crew from Slade, and Wizzard's Roy Wood were all regular customers at the height of their fame.

The grandfather, who retired and closed the shop about eight years ago, collapsed and died at his home in Love Lane, Oldswinford, on December 8.

Friend and former customer Alan Cleo, who was guitarist with the 1960s Wolverhampton band Finders Keepers, said: "Bob, along with his business partner, guitarist extraordinaire Jack McKechnie, supplied hundreds of musicians with equipment and a repair service second to none."

"The likes of super stars Slade,

Robert Plant, John Bonham and Roy Wood, and many more, all depended on Bob for keeping them on the road, even during the height of their fame."

Bob's late father, Jimmy Nash, used to be manager of Stanton's music shop in Dudley town centre, and Jack McKechnie went to work there after retiring from the Hedley Ward Trio. Mr McKechnie used to demonstrate the guitars sold there and, after getting to know Mr Nash, the pair decided to set up in partnership with Modern Music. Mr Cleo

said: "Bob and Jack used to sell guitars, keyboards and other instruments and both became engineers, doing repairs to amplifiers and selling spares. In those days if something went wrong with a Shure microphone you had to send it off to the USA to be repaired."

"But Bob and Jack got a licence to stock the microphone cartridges so were able to repair mics for people all over the country." Bob leaves his wife, Val, children, Tim and Emma, and grandchildren, Oliver, Eleanor and Henry.

Football coach father dies after fall from attic at home

TRIBUTES have been paid to a popular youth team football coach who has died aged 36 after falling in his Dudley home.

Father-of-two Darren Owen, who managed Stourbridge Football Club Under-11s, was hailed for his work with the youngsters. Neighbours said they believed Mr Owen fell while collecting Christmas decorations from the loft in his

by Alex Ross



Darren Owen

home. He died in Russell's Hall Hospital on December 8 due to head injuries.

He leaves behind his wife Becky and two children Luke, who plays for the club, and Joe.

Mrs Owen said she was too upset to talk and was 'struggling to get my head together' following her husband's death.

Stourbridge Football Club director Andy Bullingham said the club had been in contact with the family.

The club cancelled the next game as a mark of respect. He said: "We know he fell from his attic and was found by his wife."

"Paramedics were called and he was put on a ventilator, but died in hospital."

Under 11s assistant manager Peter Thompson said: "I don't think anyone can quite yet believe what has happened. Darren was a great man."

The side's administrator Simon Westwood also paid tribute.

He said: "All of our thoughts and prayers are with Darren's family, Becky, Luke and Joe, at this tragic time. Darren was a great manager but most importantly a great person."

"Darren was not in football for self gain, he was in it foremost for the kids."

He added: "We would like to thank all the people and other clubs, managers and coaches who have passed their condolences."

Black Country coroner Robin Balmain opened an inquest into his death last week. It was adjourned for investigation.

Young can have a say

A NEW online survey allows residents of Wyre Forest – aged between 11 and 18 – to have their say. The YouthPoint survey is being carried out by Worcestershire County Council.

YouthPoint has the backing of the Worcestershire Youth Cabinet, which has helped with the design of the consultation. Schools have been invited to support YouthPoint by encouraging their pupils to complete the survey online, either by doing it in their own time or as part of Citizenship and PSHE curriculum lessons.

Visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/youthpoint2012.



Car mechanic Rhys Davies who has set up his new business, FastFit, in Lye

Aiming to get in top gear

A MOTOR mechanic is hoping his new repair business in Stourbridge will reach top gear after battling against the world recession.

Rhys Davies has faced struggles with banks, insurance companies and mounting costs to fund his business of repairing and servicing vehicles.

But he has now managed to scrape together the cash set up his own garage in a bid to support his young family.

Mr Davies, of New Street, Kingswinford, was forced to go it alone after failing to find work.

Despite applying for more than 300 jobs and spending £200 posting out CVs, the 20-year-old was at his wits' end and so decided to take matters into his own hands.

So now Rhys he set up his FastFit garage, in Dudley Road, Lye, in the past few weeks and is hoping the venture will now take off and prove successful.

Stourbridge MP Margot James heard about Mr Davies' difficulties and went to meet him to discuss what she could do to help keep the fledgling business on the right track.

NEWS in brief

£13,000 raised to build playground

SCHOOL chums of tragic Owen Jeremy have raised £13,000 for an adventure playground as a memorial to the sporty youngster.

The eight-year-old, of Primrose Hill, Worsley, died suddenly hours after an asthma attack at school in May. On the day he had the attack he had earned his 50m swimming badge. He also enjoyed football and tennis. Owen's mother, Rowena Jeremy, said: "The plan is to officially open it on March 1, which would have been Owen's ninth birthday."

Charity appeals for more stock

A KIDDERMINSTER charity has issued an urgent appeal for stock for its new donations and furniture centre.

Kemp Hospice has opened the base in Lisle Avenue where it will be selling second-hand and renovated furniture.

People can also drop off donations at the centre. Items other than furniture can be donated at any of Kemps four shops, in Load Street, Bewdley; Oxford Street, Kidderminster; Warbler Place, Spennells and Tan Lane, Stourport.

Loco in secret tests on SVR

A VERY old locomotive with a special role in London Underground's 150th birthday has been tested on the Severn Valley Railway.

The 1896 Metropolitan Railway steam locomotive, named Met 1, is set to be the curtain raiser at London's Moorgate Station on the January 13 celebrations. In the build-up the locomotive was in Kidderminster.

Comet staff lost as stores closed

MORE than a dozen staff lost their jobs when Comet closed its Kidderminster store on Saturday.

A total of 15 full and part-time workers lost their jobs at the Crossley Retail Park branch.

Another 20 were axed at the Oldbury Green Retail Park store. The chain faces complete shutdown before Christmas.

New store opens

A NEW convenience store has opened in Dudley creating eight jobs.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



LET me start by wishing all the readers (even the awkward-squad ones) a merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

□□□□□□□□

THE little boys and girls slaughtered in the Connecticut school massacre were human sacrifices on the altar of America's obsession with guns. The US Constitution allows its citizens to possess weapons in order that an efficient militia can be maintained – in other words to let the people fight off foreign invaders. The reality is that no American citizen has fired a shot at a foreign invader in the US mainland for 200 years. Yet over the past two centuries gun-toting Americans have killed hundreds of thousands of their fellow Americans. They will continue to do so until they realise that in a modern democracy having lethal weapons in the home is not a civil right, nor a guarantee of liberty but the mark of the beast.

□□□□□□□□

YET America is a democracy. If it had the political will it could introduce gun control tomorrow. It chooses not to do so. We can only conclude, with some horror, that it considers the occasional slaughter of its children to be a price worth paying for the right to keep an assault rifle in the bedroom. And the truly terrible thing is that some of those whose own children have died in the endless succession of massacres believe that, too.

□□□□□□□□

IT USED to be said, in the days of music halls, that the Devil had all the best tunes. At this time of year, as the air fills with much-loved carols, it may seem the Almighty has all the best tunes. And then I went to a carol service where the choir sang two hits from The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992), Thankful Heart and It Feels Like Christmas. Believe me, The Muppets have all the best tunes.

□□□□□□□□

THE choristers in question were all elderly gentlemen. Imagine a Muppet choir made up entirely of Stalers and Waldorfs and you get the picture.

□□□□□□□□

OUR changing language. Lib-Dem leader Nick Clegg on the success of the Coalition: "On the whole I hope it will actually surprise on the upside." No, I haven't a clue what it means either. Perhaps Clegg would be a natural as a scriptwriter for Ken Dodd. "What a lovely day, missus. What a lovely day for tossing a pancake blindfolded and getting a surprise on your upside."

□□□□□□□□

I HAVE bought an old Volvo. I knew this day would come. Victoria Woods defined the onset of middle age as the moment you pass a display of Scholl sandals and think: "Mmm, they look comfy." The Volvo is very comfy, and very sensible. It also has a little pocket under the sun visor where you can keep that thing you're always losing. I wonder how many of my readers are suddenly thinking: "The sun visor, that's where I left it."

□□□□□□□□

REJOICE, for scientists have rediscovered the Mediterranean oil beetle. It was thought to have become extinct 100 years ago but has been found in the south of England. It is a big beetle, measuring about one inch. Which reminds me of something I really should put on my Xmas list. Slippers.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Mystery as green man disappears



The Green Man plaque

The "green man" has always been a part of the mysterious folklore of England – and now the mystery deepens after a bronze sculpture of him vanished from Dudley town centre.

Dudley Council leaders are appealing for help to track down the plaque, depicting the medieval symbol of spring fertility, which used to welcome shoppers using the Green Man Entry in Castle Street. The face of the legendary green figure – framed by leaves and tendrils – was commissioned for around £3,000 as part of a public art project 17 years ago. But it recently disappeared, presumed stolen, while renovations were being carried out on local historical buildings near the alleyway. The artist who created the sculpture, John McKenna, said: "It might have been taken by metal thieves but they would probably have

got only £30 to £40 for it. "Or somebody might just have decided they'd like it in their garden."

"But it's a really mean thing to do."

If it cannot be traced, Dudley Council has pledged it will create a replacement to be installed.

Councillor Shaikat Ali, said: "Fortunately we still have a fibreglass mould allowing a replacement to be cast if the original cannot be found."

Caveman Karl steps in to help victim of attack

HE may have looked like he had just stepped out of the Flintstones but Karl Stephenson was a Good Samaritan in disguise.

Dressed as a caveman with an inflatable club, he rushed to the aid of man being beaten up in Stourbridge.

His surprising appearance helped to scare the attackers away enabling him to get help for the victim.

The 30-year-old tree surgeon from Hagley was last week caught on CCTV in the High Street and released by police to track down the attackers.

The footage showed the victim being pushed to the ground before his attacker rains blows on his face and continues to kick him in the head.

Mr Stephenson said he had been at The Mitre Inn in Lower High Street with a group of friends on October 27.

They had decided to wear fancy dress because it was almost Halloween – and he opted to dress up as a dead caveman. The group left the pub at around 1.30am on Sunday, and that was when Mr Stephenson saw the attack.

Kicked

"There were three men attacking him. I wanted them to stop so I went over and asked them what they were doing. One of the three dragged the man who was attacking him away."

"One of my friends then called the police and ambulance to help the injured man."

"It was really horrible. The man was badly injured but I am glad he's recovering well," he said.

He said the release of the CCTV video by the police had come as a surprise.

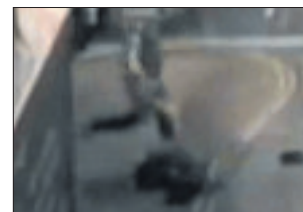
"The first thing I knew about it was when my sister text me to say she had heard it on the radio. I couldn't believe it when I saw the video," said Mr Stephenson.



Karl Stephenson who came to the aid of a man who was being attacked



Karl dressed as a cave man



CCTV shows the victim on the ground

Doctors tweet to send A&E message

DOCTORS took to social networking to give a real-time snapshot of the cases seen by accident and emergency staff at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

They tweeted throughout the day providing a glimpse behind the scenes of the department.

Staff wanted to highlight the types of injuries and conditions which should be treated at a GP surgery or a walk-in centre.

People with sore throats, headaches and back pain and also a patient with a burst blister were among those turning up at the department.

It was part of a campaign aimed at reducing the number of people unnecessarily going to hospital for treatment.

Mr Rajan Paw, medical head of service for emergency medicine, said: "We've seen people with sore throats for over a week or headaches for two or three days. They could have seen a GP. We sometimes see people who haven't taken any pain relief prior to their arrival," he said. During the day staff helped more than six people who had fallen, most likely due to the cold and icy weather.

New jobs at closed unit

A CLOSED cash and carry in Kidderminster will be reopened as an outdoor leisure store, creating around 50 new jobs in the town.

Go Outdoors will move into the large shop unit in Hoo Farm Industrial Estate after approval was given by Wyre Forest Council.

The store was last used by Brooker Cash and Carry. At a council planning committee recently, members voted to give the application the go-ahead without any debate.

Officers had recommended approval to councillors.

Views on booze

PEOPLE in the Wyre Forest district are being invited to take part in a survey about alcohol.

Anyone interested in taking part in the "it's time to talk about drinking" survey, organised by Worcestershire County Council, can do so at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/talkdrink.

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Site given scientific protection

A SITE near Dudley town centre could be given special protection as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Natural England is consulting owners and others interested at the nature reserve of Barrow Hill and Tansey Green.

Michelle Hawkins, of Natural England, said: "Barrow Hill and Tansey green have been designated as a SSSI because they are of special interest due to their exceptional geological features."

"The Tansey Green section is also internationally important for the presence of the oldest anatomically preserved confiners found to date."

Barrow Hill is already a local nature reserve used by the public and this would not change.

"Barrow Hill's well-known volcanic features are already maintained and protected exceptionally well by Dudley Council but the Tansey Green site is owned by a local developer and is private land, and therefore public access can only be granted with the owner's permission," she added.

Once the sites become SSSIs the local planning authority must consult Natural England on any planning applications.

Students to fight abuse

PUPILS in the Wyre Forest district and Worcestershire villages near Stourbridge are pledging to fight physical and verbal abuse.

These Hands Are Not For Hurting is a campaign by West Mercia Police, children's charity Barnardo's, the ContinU Trust consortium of schools in the Wyre Forest and Hagley and Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership.

Students and staff at high schools in Wyre Forest and Hagley are putting their handprints in paint and then on to material to form a huge piece of artwork.

The artwork, which will be about 10 metres long, will go on show at the Piano Building in Kidderminster.

Musical event

KIDDERMINSTER Choral Society will stage its gala Christmas concert at Kidderminster town hall at 7pm on December 22.

The event will feature Wyre Forest Young Voices and Holbourn Brass. See: www.kidderminsterchoral-society.co.uk

Nearly a third have no formal qualifications

ALMOST a third of people living in Dudley have no formal qualifications, according to the latest Government figures.

Thirty per cent of people aged 16 and over have no qualifications – which puts the borough among the highest numbers in the country.

Figures in the 2011 Census show that Dudley has the 26th highest figure – while in the rest of the Black Country, it is even worse.

In total, 312,925 lived in Dudley when the survey was conducted.

Of those, 75,980 people had not passed any formal examinations.

Sandwell has the second highest number without qualifications, with a total of 85,040.

Walsall ranked as seventh and Wolverhampton at 19th.

Underlines

Wyre Forest has 22,579 people without formal qualifications.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said today: "This underlines the need to make education and skills our number one pri-

ority. The people and the places that prosper in the future will be the ones that are the best educated and have the best skills, but we're falling further and further behind."

"It's really urgent and it's really important that we drive up school standards, get more youngsters staying on and going to university, increase the quality and number of apprenticeships and improve vocational training in the workplace too," he added.

Dudley has the 57th highest concentration of people per hectare with 31.9 people

living in each hectare – but the Wyre Forest district has only five people per hectare.

There are 8,621 lone parents in Dudley and 90.8 per cent – or 7,826 – are women.

Secular

In Wyre Forest there are 2,779 lone parents and 88.3 per cent – or 2,455 – are women.

Nationally, the figures indicate that the population of England and Wales has grown increasing secular and increasingly ethnically diverse over the last decade.

Ballot boxes ready for the people to have a say on tax

BALLOT boxes have been rolled out across Dudley borough to encourage residents to have their say in a debate about whether they would prefer extra taxes – or cuts in services.

Dudley Council is carrying out its biggest ever consultation to answer questions on the issue. Ballot boxes and survey forms have now been placed in libraries, leisure centres and park activity centres right across the borough.

Residents are being given the options of a weekly rise of 43p (2 per cent), 75p (3.5 per cent) and £1 (4.6 per cent).

GPs to take control of the budgets

GPs in Dudley have been given the go-ahead to take over responsibility for managing the borough's £400 million health care budget next financial year.

They will decide how the money is spent and buy patient services such as hospital care and physiotherapy.

This is currently the role the primary care trust known as NHS Dudley, but will be handed over to the new Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in April.

The group is among 33 across the country to be granted the new powers by the independent NHS Commissioning Board. Others include NHS Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG.

Dudley CCG chairman Dr David Hegarty said: "The last few months working in shadow form has given clinicians in Dudley the opportunity to work together to genuinely make a difference to the way local services are provided, improving their quality and enabling patients to live longer, healthier lives."

"We are very pleased to have successfully passed through authorisation."

Sir David Nicholson, chief executive of the NHS Commissioning Board, said creation of CCGs will have real benefits for patients.

The Dudley CCG is made of 52 practices and manages a budget in excess of £400m for the borough's population of more than 300,000 people.

The council says that, if council tax does not increase from next April, £29 million savings will be needed, on top of the £30 million cuts over the last two years.

People taking part in the survey can also indicate which services they most want to protect, including refuse and recycling collections, child protection and older people's services.

Councillor Pete Lowe, cabinet member for finance, said: "This consultation is about listening to local people and we want to make it as easy as possible for people to have their say."

Delivers

"The ballot boxes are now in around 30 sites and we hope people will take a couple of minutes to take part."

"Dudley Council delivers more than 800 services to local people and the scale of the choice and the tough decisions before us can not be underestimated."

"We feel it's vital to embark on a wide-spread public consultation."

The consultation survey features a table which shows the impact various council tax options could have on different services.

As well as the leaflet forms with the ballot boxes, the consultation can be done online at dudley.gov.uk or at the council's Dudley borough Facebook page or via twitter @dudleymbc. Consultation will run to the end of February.

Industrial death

A 66-YEAR-OLD Stourport man died as a result of industrial disease, a coroner has ruled. Coroner Geraint Williams said Michael Reedman, of Francis Road, had been exposed to asbestos during his working life and developed mesothelioma. He died last month.

Shoe-ing their festive spirit



Pupils at King Charles I School have taken part in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal which sends out presents to those less fortunate

KIDDERMINSTER school pupils have been collecting toiletries and essentials for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal.

Every year students at King Charles I School help needy people around the world. Assistant headteacher Stuart Arch said: "The appeal sits well within the Active Citi-

zenship curriculum which is promoted across the school."

"It is an opportunity for students to make links with children around the world. Students from years 7 to 13 took part, increasing the total by 60 per cent on last year, and there was a competitive buzz around the school."

NEWS in brief

Fitness teacher gets £5,000 grant

A KINGSWINFORD fitness teacher has earned a £5,000 award to help set up a website to help older people in the Black Country to get fitter.

Tina Lloyd, aged 35, of Crestwood Park, who runs exercise classes in Wolverhampton, is director of a social enterprise company called Fit4Life.

She aims to launch the Connect4 project.

Fit4Life has now won a "Digital Heroes" award from telephone and broadband company TalkTalk, with the prize of a £5,000 technology grant.

Scheme to keep people in warmth

A SCHEME to ensure residents in Dudley stay warm during winter has been launched.

The programme, run by the council with NHS Dudley and local charities, provides practical support, information and expert advice.

Anyone concerned about keeping their home warm, struggling with paying their fuel bills can ask for help from the scheme.

The helpline is 01384 817086.

Organisers look for park sponsor

AN Annual park fun day in Dudley have launched a fundraising appeal to help support next year's event.

The Netherton Park fun day is the largest free event of its kind in the borough. Next year's is already being planned and will take place on July 6 around the Northfield Road park. Organisers want a sponsor for the event email friends@nethertonpark.com

Political comedy coming to town

POLITICAL activist and comedian Mark Thomas will bring his award-winning show Bravo Figaro to Stourbridge.

The performance, about his father, who has progressive supranuclear palsy, and how Mark put on an opera for him in his bungalow, will be at Stourbridge Town Hall on February 15.

Charity donation

A CHARITY for people with brain injuries has been given £1,650. Headway Black Country received the cash from a Lodge of the Wolverhampton and District Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.

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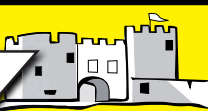
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NEWS

Sweet success for Kim as she cooks up business

A CAKE shop in the Midlands is enjoying the sweet taste of success after celebrating an "amazing" first year in business.

Kimmy Loves Cake marked its anniversary by dishing out free goodies to customers at the shop in Load Street.

Owner Kimberley Bennett, aged 26, said the past 12 months had gone well for the fledgling business.

Until this time last year she had been selling cakes from her home, on Dowles Road, Bewdley, alongside her day job as a forensic analyst.

She decided to ditch her job, which had seen her working on mobile phone tracking cases including that of Soham murderer Ian Huntley, to pursue her passion for business.

She said: "Within two years I had got to the top of my career. It was really interesting work but I'm the type that always needs a challenge, so I decided to start my own business. I always knew I wanted a shop of my own."

"It's a difficult market and it's a tricky time to be opening any business, especially as an independent - but the last 12 months have been amazing."

Now Ms Bennett, who runs the shop with just one helper, is hoping to take on new staff in the New Year. She said: "I'd love to expand the business too but we're waiting for the right opportunity."

Thieves steal jewellery

THIEVES broke into a Kidderminster house and stole nearly £6,000 of jewellery.

They also took two laptops, gold and silver rings, bracelets and chains.

They struck at the property in St John's Avenue between 8.15am and 2pm on December 7.

Among the items taken was a Cartier silver band ring and a ladies Cartier watch with a silver strap and white square face.

Anyone with information about the burglary can contact Pc Bartlett on 101, quoting incident 387-S-071212.



Kimberley Bennett, owner of Kimmy Loves Cake, which is situated in Bewdley, who has celebrated an "amazing" first year in business

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Osborne needs to learn his ABC

GEORGE Osborne's Autumn Statement not only illustrates the government's reluctance to really tax the wealthy, it also reveals the extent of damage this Coalition Government is doing to our economy.

They continue to claim that our present situation is due to the previous government, but the facts tell a different story that puts Britain's position into perspective.

This government claims to be promoting British industry, yet headlines in the press that Britain's debt could be larger than that of Greece certainly doesn't help to improve confidence in

our economy. Such claims are clearly intended to maintain the image that it is all the fault of the previous government, but they undermine our recovery. The most important factor is not the amount that we owe, but the ratio between the debt and our GDP. Right up to the global banking crisis, the ratio between debt and GDP was 44 per cent. It's now about 78 per cent. That sounds like a lot, but compared to most of the 20th century it is quite small.

The difference between Britain and Greece is that our economy is much bigger and more resilient, having the ability to claw back the deficit by

increasing GDP. In fact, in terms of GDP to deficit ratio, Britain has the second strongest economy in Europe, only fractionally worse than that of Germany, despite the ratio having continually risen under this government.

In that context, continuation of austerity measures is detrimental to recovery. Every job lost, every full time post replaced by part time work reduces our GDP thus increasing the ratio of debt. It is surely now time for Plan "B", but it seems that Osborne hasn't yet got that far in learning the alphabet.

M CLIFF
Wall Heath

Mobility scooters are often a necessity

I MUST respond to Mrs. Starkey's letter - "Not a big fan of the mobility scooters".

She obviously has no experience of people who genuinely have mobility problems and need assistance to get around.

I am fortunate enough to not have to use a scooter but know people who use them, and they are not just using them for a thrill.

Mobility scooters are imperative for people who cannot walk, for whatever reason, to be independent and not have to rely on others. As Mrs. Starkey proves, not everyone in this season of goodwill is open to thinking of others and doing what they can to help. Her thoughtless comments are no laughing matter.

Mind how you go now, Mrs. Starkey and lets hope that in the future you do not need help to get around.

MRS. JEAYONS,
Kingswinford

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Differences in bus drivers' attitudes

ON Tuesday, December 11 my wife and I decided to get the number 1 bus from Dudley to Tettenhall Wood, just to see where it went.

As we were in the area of the bottom of the Inhedge in Wolverhampton Street, we went to the nearest bus stop. A No.1 single decker bus was at the stop as we approached it, and when we got to within a few feet of it, my wife put her arm out to indicate to the driver that we wanted to get on the bus. (I cannot walk so fast as her as I have arthritis and use a walking stick). The driver just closed his doors and drove off.

Returning from Tettenhall Wood, we broke our journey in Wolverhampton and went for coffee at our favourite coffee bar - Coffee Moments in the Mander Centre. After refreshments, we resumed our return journey to Dudley and got on to a Green Bus route number 558. The driver of this bus saw a disabled person obviously rushing to get to the bus stop in the Gornal area and stopped to allow him to get on the bus some yards before his intended stop.

The driver of the No. 1 bus must be able to identify himself. Shame on you friend.
PETER COLE, Chelford Crescent, Kingswinford

Brought up in a time of rationing

I WAS born in 1940, a hard time for all, with WWII raging, and spent the 40s and early 50s having a hard but enjoyable childhood.

Virtually everything was rationed from fuel to clothes and basic foods to sweets.

At Christmas we kids were lucky to get an apple, an orange, a few nuts and maybe a few sweets. A really special gift was maybe a new pair of shoes, or hand-me-downs. But it was a relief to throw away the old ones, with the cardboard soles.

Fast forward to 2012, and yes, kids still have an apple, but it's an Apple computer or iPod, iPad, tablet, whatever. They still have an orange, but it's probably a £300 mobile phone. So you kids had better hope we never return to the 1940s and 50s, but start to appreciate it all. A merry Christmas to you all.

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NEWS

Tributes to tireless Kath after 30 years of helping

TRIBUTES have been paid to a woman who worked "tirelessly" for Kidderminster Hospital for 30 years.

Kathleen Brophy, who died aged 86, dedicated much of her life to Kidderminster Hospital's League of Friends, first as its secretary and later focusing on publicity.



Kathleen Brophy

Mrs Brophy, was "worked tirelessly."

"She was a great advocate of the hospital. Her commitment was tremendous. She was very determined and when she set her mind on something nothing could deter her," he said.

"She will be remembered as the lady with a smile. She had a very warm disposition. People going into the reception at the hospital said she was a nice, reassuring face to welcome them."

He added Mrs Brophy was a keen gardener and enjoyed getting involved with the League of Friends' plant sales. Violet Danks, who runs the group's charity shop on Bewdley Road and worked with Mrs Brophy, said: "She was an absolutely great person."

Families without cars

ALMOST 30,000 households in Dudley do not have a car, new figures claim.

But the borough still has more cars per family than in Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

The 2011 Census figures showed that 29,896 out of 129,867 households did not have a car.

Lemurs surround Santa



Father Christmas was obviously delighted to see 10 lemurs a-leaping during an early visit to the West Midlands Safari Park

SANTA'S annual visit to West Midlands Safari Park at Bewdley is usually a wild affair and this year it is even more so.

A special trail, called Walking with Lemurs, has opened for the first time this winter at the attraction and Father Christmas decided to check out the flamboyant behav-

iour of the Madagascan ring-tailed creatures.

The lemurs live in the Park's woodland walk area and it wasn't long before Santa was mobbed by 10 of the lemurs. Santa Safari is on offer to visitors to the park every day up to Christmas Eve. Call the ticket hotline of 01299 400700.

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Plans for town's ancient sites are given go-ahead

PLANS to rebuild a deteriorating 19th century barn in Dudley's medieval quarter have been given the go-ahead.

A nearby former municipal mortuary, yard canopy and workshop will also be knocked down as part of the redevelopment project in the town's historic Court Passage. The scheme was approved by Dudley Council's planning committee last week. Spending £64,000, the council will rebuild three of the barn's three walls and reduce its height.

The footprint of the building will be retained to provide a reminder of the site's history.

There had been concerns about the building's poor state of repair and officers feared it was in danger of collapse.

The adjoining former mortuary will be

demolished to make way for car parking for new offices being built in the Holloway Chambers and Elizabeth House Buildings.

A total of 11 car parking spaces will be created under the plans.

Court Passage is in the town's conservation area and dates back to medieval times, once providing back lanes to nearby properties for deliveries and access to stables. The mortuary was used at the beginning of the 20th century.

Chairman of the planning committee Councillor Rachel Harris welcomed the redevelopment work.

"We have a long and worthy-of-preservation industrial past but it's important for us to have a working town centres and have buildings people want to let."

Brickworks scheme approved

PLANS for more than 100 new homes, a craft village and nursing home on the site of a historic former brickworks on the Dudley-South Staffordshire border can go ahead after the Government gave the green light.

David Wilson Homes and Weinberger have been granted outline planning permission for the development at Baggeridge Brickworks in Gospel End, Sedgley.

The developers had appealed to the Planning Inspectorate against South Staffordshire Council's decision to refuse their application earlier this year. Councillors had argued the development would be too large for the

village but developers say it would boost the area's economy and attract new visitors.

A planning inquiry was held last month, and now the scheme, which includes 140 homes, 12 craft workshops, a 60-bedroom nursing home and new road access from the A463, has been approved after a planning inspector ruled it was an appropriate development.

Association

The decision signals the end of the site's long association with brickmaking which stretches back to the 1930s. During the inquiry, the hearing was told the plans go against the Black Country Core Strategy, which lays out guidelines for major building projects in the region.

But the applicants said there was a

"clear need" for new houses and a nursing home in the area.

Announcing his decision to allow the appeal, planning inspector John Papworth said the scheme would enable a previously developed site to be reused and would remove derelict buildings and land.

He said the project would include the retention of the brickworks chimney to retain "a visual reminder of the site's history". Mr Papworth said the scheme would bring many benefits such as affordable housing, care homes and new employment benefits.

But the chairman of South Staffordshire Council's regulatory committee Councillor Brian Cox said: "We're obviously disappointed the inspector has concluded the development would provide substantial benefits."

Volunteers given boost

VOLUNTEER lifesavers have been boosted by a £5,000 grant from the charitable trust of a renowned musician and composer.

The Paul Farrer Charitable Trust has awarded the cash to Worcester & Malvern Community First Responders.

Mr Farrer, who has provided many soundtracks for TV, film and radio, said: "My charitable trust is in awe of the hard work done by the community first responders across the country."

"We are proud to support them. I hope we can inspire more people to get involved in this excellent cause."

Paws for thoughts about hungry cats



Becky Cash and Amy Burkitt make an appeal for food gifts helped by cat Meeko

GENEROUS animal lovers are rallying to provide a Christmas dinner for abandoned pets.

The Rosewood Animal Hospital, Mason Street, Coleley, has mounted an appeal for food, blankets and bedding to cope with the expected flood of creatures taken in by local charities over the festive season.

"Sadly, around Christmas time a lot of people kick pets, including dogs and cats, out on to the streets because they can't afford to feed them," said Becky Cash, veterinary nurse at Rosewood.

"So every year we appeal to local people to donate whatever they can."

Man caught growing second batch of drug

A MAN has grown a second batch of cannabis plants because he believed an earlier crop had been stolen by burglars - when in fact it had been seized by police.

Officers found 28 cannabis plants in the loft of Brian Walker's Dudley home during a police raid. They also found a full hydroponic system to grow the drug.

They took the items away and Walker, who was missing from the property, was listed as "wanted".

Then nearly three months later one of the officers returned to the house in Edward Street and found another 17 cannabis plants.

Walker, 41, was arrested and revealed he got another crop going after assuming he had been burgled. Judge Michael Dudley sentenced him on the basis he had not been aware police had been to his home. Father-of-three Walker admitted producing cannabis.

He was given an eight-month jail term suspended for a year and ordered to do 120 hours unpaid work.

Mr Malcolm Fowler, defending, told Wolverhampton Crown Court his client simply did not know police had been to his home.



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NEWS

Engineering future



The pupils on a visit to engineering firm Eaton Automotive Fluids in Thorns Road, Brierley Hill

YOUNGSTERS from a Quarry Bank school spent a day learning the skills of an engineer. Brierley Hill automotive supplier Eaton Automotive is hosting 90 children, aged seven to nine, from Mount Pleasant Primary School over the next few months.

Steve Harratt from City of Wolverhampton College's Polymer Training and Innovation Centre in Telford, said the children will see the machines in action and find out how car components are made. Mr Harratt said: "It was a real pleasure to work with these youngsters who were excellent ambassadors for their school."

Factory manager Mark Wale said the event was part of the business's Eaton Blue Weeks where they work with the local community.

Library will be the new location for homes staff

HALESOWEN'S housing office, which is the last remaining in Dudley borough, will move into the town's library next month.

Around 14 front counter staff at the housing services office in The Queensway, will be relocated under the plans which will also see staff from the Citizens Advice Bureau also move into the library, based inside the Cornbow Centre.

The library will undergo a £50,000 revamp as part of the changes to create a one-stop shop for housing, library and advice services. A new housing inquiries reception will open for customers on January 9 for officer to provide assistance on general housing matters and homelessness issues Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

There will also be more computers available for customers to access information. Council bosses say the new location in the library means the service is now in a central location with easy access from the bus station and improved facilities for wheelchair users and families with pushchairs.

Dudley's housing chief Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "We have taken the decision to relocate Halesowen housing services within the Halesowen Library which has presented an opportunity to co-locate with Citizens Advice Bureau."

The benefits of this move will bring a number of advantages to our customers. "We have already relocated two area offices into local libraries and have found that this has been very well received by users. Customers have found it very useful to have a number of services under one roof."

Tenants have been advised the new office will not be accepting payments. Housing office staff in Brierley Hill and Stourbridge were previously moved into the towns libraries.

by Heather Large

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DEBBIE sexy size 14, fun, outgoing, discreet, looking for fun times only with male over 40yrs, call to find out more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398759

HI I'm Marilyn a blue eyed beauty. Call me if you have a happy outlook and are seeking some fun. Age/looks/unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399565

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MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398349

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

NATASHA single professional 39yr old brunette looking for fun and friendship with genuine guy, 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395719

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979

TRISH tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves life, WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395759

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923

ANGELA green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399633

LISA attractive blue eyed brunette, sporty, was maintained 25yr old unit student looking for older male for discreet dates. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399619

DEBS lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399523

HI I'm Sharon an outgoing single mum looking to find love so thought I would give this a go, please don't make me regret it, someone call me pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399197

LUCY beautiful big bottomed black female, very tactile, seeks mature honest white male for loving fun times. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397389

KATHERINE 38, attractive, single, very lonely and looking for love, fun and male companionship. Pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397123

HI I'm Natalie 24, pretty, friendly, single, seeking energetic man for romantic walks, cosy nights in and fun-loving relationship. Any age/looks/race. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397489

TINA young attractive 27yr old single female looking for older friendly loving male for adult fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397563

BEV 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397535

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55, for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818

CATHY is a slim attractive lady with an open minded attitude to life, she WLTm a man of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395657

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501

WIDOW 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013

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ALICIA 19yr old green eyed female, very attractive, slim, long hair, independent, looking for fun with mature male, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390059

JOY 36 petite medium build, blue eyes, loves romantic walks, meals in/out, WLTm male 30-45 for meets. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386629

CHRIS attractive slim sophisticated lady, 30-50s to relax with and get to know. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392401

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, with tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395727

MICHELLE attractive 30's female, blonde, leggy and very much single, seeking quality company, hopefully more with nice romantic male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395717

BUBBLY female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395719

VICKY honest caring female 39yrs, GSOH, loves meals in/out, travel, cinema, WLTm someone to enjoy nice things in life with and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383911

DENISE tall leggy good looking single mum, easygoing, enjoys nights in/out, animals, WLTm tall male for fun times possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391873

JENNY blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTm older male to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378481

MAUREEN seeks male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 323543

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325

SHAPELY attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit, male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 231152

CAROLINE 42yrs, slim attractive blonde. Varied interests and solvent. WLTm honest male of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395675

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTm male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376165

FARMER'S granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTm countryside/bachelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387204

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383277

KAREN witty female who loves to laugh, WLTm similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393125

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317

I'M Julie 36yrs old, attractive, fit, blonde, solvent with OHAC seeking man to spoil and enjoy good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395051

EASYGOING down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893

LADY young 60, outgoing, friendly, smart, likes cinema, shopping, meals out, seeks similar female friends for days out and evenings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387117

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 379535

FEMALE kind, giving, thoughtful, sensitive, seeks lifetime friend to love and understand me for who I am. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 350397

LADY widow, 58, slim, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks smart, intelligent, easygoing man with GSOH who enjoys conversations, days out, short breaks, meals out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387247

SALLY slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTm similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393469

MADDIE extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394565

PAULINE divorced female on the wrong side of 40 looking for adult fun with easygoing highly driven man if you get my drift? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394463

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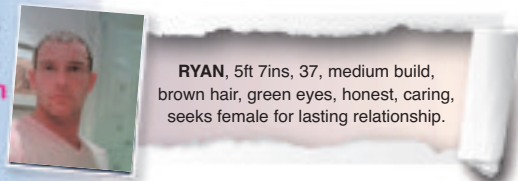
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BRIAN 60's, intelligent, many interests, loving, affectionate, WLTm West Mids lady for sharing occasional meetings/weekends. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400115

52YR old single parent, 5ft 11ins, slim, likes most things, walks, nights out, cinema, animals, seeks caring, honest, trustworthy female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400039

ROY 62, tall, fit, loyal, N/S, looking for that special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397637

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RYAN, 5ft 7ins, 37, medium build, brown hair, green eyes, honest, caring, seeks female for lasting relationship.

BRIAN 73, fit, N/S, own home, likes walks, cycling, meals out, nights in, holidays, travel, seeks genuine, caring female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399667

GUY early 60's, fit, N/S, OHAC, seeks slim female, 30-60 for fun, adult times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399567

LOOKING for love. Telford male, 46, shaved head, average build, likes walks, meals out, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397941

STEVE 49, fed up, seeking female for fun and friendship, possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393218

57YR old male, good looking, seeking female for fun times and nights in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397463

GARY 39, seeks female, 30-50 for LTR and fun. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398747

FRIENDLY guy 49, tall, fit, GSOH, attractive, seeks lady for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399091

TAYLOR 50, tall, athletic, GSOH, WLTm female, attractive, curvy for friendship, maybe more. food, communication, evenings out, travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399067

STEVE 54, attractive, seeks older lady, 55-75 for mutual adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399755

CARL 40, likes DVDs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393766

COVENTRY male, 42, 6ft 11ins, caring, romantic nature, seeks female, single mum welcome, 25-55, any nationality/Foreign for nice times in and out. Genuine replies only. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398671

DAVID slightly disabled, likes sports, meals out, nights in, seeks female for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393192

MALE fun, outgoing, easy-going, seeking female for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383346

55YR old male, likes sports, film, nights in, seeking female, 30-45 for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398049

GENT 54, slightly mad but not bad will make you glad you answered this ad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398231

STEVEN 49, good looking, likes a laugh, pubs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397985

WEST Midlands single guy 60, strong, WLTm affectionate lady, your place or mine for uncommitted enjoyment. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396807

BRIAN 60's, ordinary man, strong needs, seeks affectionate lady for close friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396675

INDIAN male, UK born, seeks white English female, 35-45 to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397509

JAMES 56, 5ft 9ins, professional, OHAC, independent, no ties, seeking loving relationship with likeminded woman. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397473

JOE 45, GSOH, attractive, medical professional, seeks female for daytime fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396671

CLIVE 46, seeking hot chick for plenty of action. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392772

GOOD looking male, early 50's, 6ft, farmer, outgoing, fun loving, seeking attractive fun loving female, 25-35 who enjoys travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393340

63YR old male, fit, likes cooking/baking, tennis, seeks female, 37-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398825

GENT mid 70's, seeks genuine lady, 65 plus for outings, holidays etc. leading to relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398575

59YR old male, 5ft 8ins, seeks younger lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392908

IAN 44, single dad, loving, caring, honest, seeks similar female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392874

PAUL 60, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397679

TALL dark, good looking male, 53, seeks attractive female for daytime fun and exciting times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393380

PAUL 47, short brown hair, blue/green eyes, 6ft, slim, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393456

TALL male, 64, vitality and brain, seeks lady for discreet relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398235

IAN 60, seeks active Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun and mutual pleasure. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399003

DAVID 40, genuine, down to earth, seeking someone for nights out and great times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398889

DAVID slightly disabled, likes sports, meals out, nights in, seeks female for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393192

RAYMOND 6ft, mid 70's, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks smart, attractive, caring lady for meetings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397975

MALE 70's, honest, caring, attractive, likes socialising, seeks smart, attractive, caring lady for meetings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397975

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CD 70 plus seeking CD 70 plus for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393208

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892

GAY male, 34, slim, toned, seeking older guy for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395735

MALE 44, seeking male, 18-23 for fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391626

BI male, divorced, young, fit 50, own home/business, seeks male, 18-45 for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391849



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BEAUTIFUL thing, attractive lady, n/s, beautician, enjoys fashion, antique fairs, days out & country drives. Want to know more. Text me. Text WOL 159134 to 66888

FUN blue eyed blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun. Text WOL 163788 to 66888

HEY guys! My interests include music, reading, tattoos, cooking, hanging out with mates and many more things. Text me! Text WOL 168355 to 66888

Shown the ropes



Pam Pedley tries out the course at Quest at Merry Hill
AGE is no barrier to adventure for some thrill-seeking older people from Dudley who braved the high ropes and ice rink at Merry Hill shopping centre.

A group from Age UK Dudley enjoyed a fun afternoon at Quest, the new adventure and entertainment area of the shopping complex.

Age UK members who normally attend exercise, IT or art classes at Merry Hill tried new experiences, such as ice-skating, nerf blasters and climbing to great heights on the high ropes course, the highest of its kind in Europe. Jenny Worwood, Springboard project co-ordinator with Age UK Dudley, said: "Our clients had an afternoon to remember filled with laughter and achievement."

One of the adventure-seekers, 71-year old Pam Pedley, said: "It was absolutely brilliant and I got such a buzz from the experience."

Another member, Alex Christie, said: "All activities were great fun, some a little more scary than others, but I was so proud I walked across one of the highest ropes."

NEWS

Police aiming to get extra powers and tackle booze

PEOPLE caught boozing on the streets in Quarry Bank face their drink being seized or even arrest under new powers being sought by police.

Officers have applied for an area which includes the High Street, Dunn's Bank and Stevens Park to become an alcohol exclusion zone. They want the zone in a bid to stamp out anti-social behaviour, which they say is blighting the lives of people who live there.

Alcohol exclusion zones already exist in town centres in Halesowen, Stourbridge, Dudley and Sedgley.

Sgt Steve Gordon said the area was facing problems of litter, noise, violence and damage to property because of people openly drinking in the streets.

He said: "Over the years quality of life in Quarry Bank has been increasingly affected by a noticeable increase in individuals and groups of people consuming alcohol in public places."

"There are now several acts of anti-social behaviour which have resulted in complaints to both police and the local authority."

"It is greatly believed that this increase of issues can be quelled by the introduction of a drinking ban in public areas of Quarry Bank." Sgt

by Alex Ross

Gordon also said the drinkers' behaviour was causing a risk to residents' health and putting a strain on local services.

He said: "Regularly there are several empty beer cans, signs of urination and glass bottles left strewn over the area. This then becomes a health hazard for people in the area as it is untidy and unhealthy."

Within the proposed zone, police will have the power to take alcohol off people. People who fail to hand it over can be issued with a £50 fixed penalty notice.

Chris Homer, co-director of electrical store Homers of Quarry Bank, in High Street, said: "We're not here in the evening, but in the mornings you see the rubbish and the empty beer cans lying around."

Dudley Council's licensing committee is to consider it on Wednesday.

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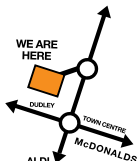
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Catering van theft from club

THIEVES have stolen a catering van from outside a Brierley Hill karate club, putting a new business in jeopardy.

Dee Williams, of Tipton, had bought the trailer for £2,500 and planned to start selling Caribbean-style food. But raiders struck at 10pm on December 10, breaking into Inspire Karate, Canal Street, and towing the van away.

Mrs Williams said she was gutted by the theft of the white van which had the words DB's Bostin Bites hot and cold food, the name of the previous business, in red letters.

It was due to be given a makeover ahead of the launch of the venture next month and contained cooking equipment and appliances including a fridge, freezer and hot plate.

Mrs Williams said: "I had just bought the van and the man I had bought it from was storing it for me."

"But before I had chance to move it, it was stolen. I don't know what I am going to do now because I have lost £2,500."

"I had saved up to buy the van so I could start a business."

"I have been learning to cook Caribbean food because it is something I enjoy and there are not many other businesses like it."

Homes approved

FIVE new homes will be built on land between Alexandra Street and Edward Street in Dudley after planning permission was granted.

Couple's pampered pooch treats are no dog's dinner

PAMPERED pets are certainly not being fed a dog's dinner – thanks to an enterprising couple who have set up their own business baking treats for dogs and cats.

Mother-of-five Kate Westcott, aged 44, and husband Martin, 56, seem to be barking up the right tree after setting up Katie's Canine Kitchen, selling their own baked pet treats.

The shop in Kidderminster's Swan Centre has grown from their decision to cook biscuits for their own dogs and those of friends at their home. Kate started baking dog biscuits and

other pet treats as a "pocket money venture" while studying screen-writing at university.

She married Martin, a former warehouseman and father-of-four, last year after a five-year romance and they decided to join forces by setting up the business.

Now the couple, who live in Kidderminster, have been deluged by pet owners wanting treats for dogs, rabbits, cats and ponies.

Kate said: "Martin makes the biscuits and we cook them in the shop. We make all types of treats including wuffins, which are really muffins for dogs, and even birthday cakes for pets with soft cheese to resemble icing. We wanted to make up wholesome food for our own dogs."

Rottweiler

"We had two at the time but now only have Holly, aged about 12, who is a rescue dog and a cross between a Labrador and a rottweiler. She tastes everything we make. If she likes it, we know other dogs will too."

The couple have been selling their wares at markets, farm shows and at car boot sales.

"Surprisingly, the carrot biscuits we make are one of our best sellers and we are doing gift bags for Christmas," said Kate.

"It was just a hobby and then I realised it was going really well through sales to friends and we decided to make it into a business."

She added: "We make biscuits and treats with simple, natural ingredients such as vegetables and I think that this is what people want for their pets."

"We hope people will come to see what we have to offer."



Jake tries some of the doggie treats with owner Kate Westcott at new the shop

NEWS

in brief

Officer appointed as new deputy

A FORMER Staffordshire police detective inspector has been appointed deputy police and crime commissioner for the West Mercia force, covering Worcestershire, Shropshire and Herefordshire.

Barrie Sheldon, a university trainer, has been confirmed as deputy to the recently-elected West Mercia commissioner, Bill Longmore.

Mr Longmore said: "I am one of the many police and crime commissioners who have decided to appoint a deputy, a move which is backed by the Police and Crime Panel."

Store proposal given approval

A plan to demolish a car wash in Brierley Hill and replace it with a convenience store has been approved.

Dudley Council has given the go-ahead to the planning application for the shop in High Street, Pensnett.

Commercial Development Projects has not yet revealed who will take over the new store.

The shop will have 12 off-street parking spaces.

Bogus calls alert

Residents across Dudley are being warned to lookout for bogus callers over Christmas and New Year.

Dudley Council's home safety service is reminding people to be extra cautious of inviting strangers into their homes over the festive season.

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REVIEWS

Phinn's Christmas crackers



Gervase Phinn

A Yuletide Evening With Gervase Phinn Town Hall, Birmingham

THE Rotherham raconteur was back in Brum for one of his seasonal specials with what is a seemingly endless stream of stories, poems and observations of children, school life and the world in general.

His first offering was a poem inspired by school children's letters to a teacher on sick leave, where their attempts to comfort her through comparison with her temporary replacement, innocently ended up telling her how much the children were enjoying her absence.

Phinn regaled his audience with the innocent honesty of a young boy who

told the former Ofsted inspector, "When I am 21, you'll probably be dead."

This set the standard for further nativity-themed treats such as the tale of the Messianic baby Tammy which spoke with an American accent at the most inappropriate times and eventually ending up as the headless Jesus.

Then there was the Yorkshire lad, complete with tea towel headress who asked "Ave you any room int th'inn?" and the unfortunately named youngster Tequila who simply explained "Our crib is crap."

Phinn brought in tales of his own idyllic childhood and sentimental poetry about his mom with When You Thought I Wasn't Looking. He recalled

his own nativity disaster where he played a palm tree complete with brown crepe paper bark which soon deteriorated due to a call of nature. He had to exit stage left in his electric blue underpants carrying his paper mache coconuts.

The audience lapped up tales such as how the mayor of Rotherham's visit to a nativity play was thwarted by the Virgin Mary having nits.

Phinn also tipped in the odd bit of proselytising about the importance of teachers and the interference of government in education but also got a little preachy especially in the second, and pretty short, half of his set about the true meaning of Christmas.

Danny Farragher

Workhorse Dan has the talent to build a future

Dan Whitehouse Birmingham Conservatoire

WOLVERHAMPTON musician Dan Whitehouse's latest outing at the Birmingham Conservatoire somehow had more of a feeling of a gathering of family and friends rather than a legitimate gig but that said Dan is a fine, maturing and determined singer/songwriter and is always worth listening to.

With a full complement of musicians at his disposal Dan started the set with You Can't Give Me Any More one of the soft ballads he does so well which was bolstered by Tom Bounford on violin and accented nicely by June Mori on the grand piano.

Dan then gave his audience a flavour of what's to come with Come Back, which will

feature on his new album due out next year. This was a more up tempo offering with a strong underbeat and was ably underpinned by the guitar playing of his fellow musician and co-producer Mike Clarke.

This was followed by perhaps one of Dan's strongest tracks the Fire of Lust which he admits is his ode to testosterone.

Three Bodies, with its almost sinister fair-ground-style undertone was inspired by a visit to Greece and is a great example of Dan's clever lyrics such as "yes she could use a little more upfront, but she's still saving up for that." Dan is a workhorse, there is no two ways about it, and he is both trying to increase his musical profile and work on his stage presence and act, and there is no doubt he has the talent.

Danny Farragher

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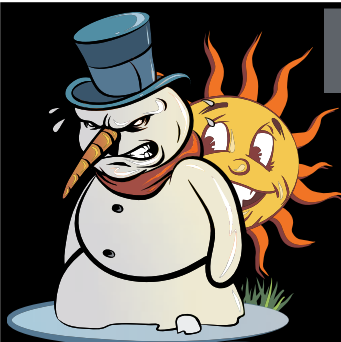
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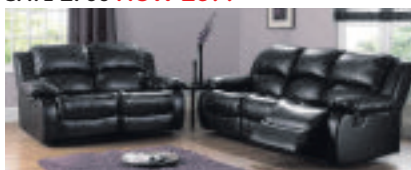
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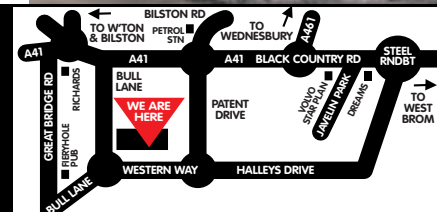
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THE WAY I SEE IT

Measures in statement are important for local traders

I WAS pleased to contribute to the economy debate in the Commons chamber, arguing that, whilst borrowing figures remain disappointing, many of the measures in the Chancellor's Autumn statement were important for Black Country businesses to help them prosper, grow and create additional employment.

I was pleased to join Tina Lloyd of Kingswinford for the Digital Heroes awards in Parliament where Tina picked up a large IT grant for Fit4Life which helps elderly people keep fit and active.

There was also a visit to Pens Meadow, a special school in Wordsley where I met with Marie Bissell, headteacher, for a tour to meet the wonderful children and staff. I was able to pick up discussions about funding for special schools in the borough and concerns about funding equal pay awards.

Braving the cold weather again several times, I have been knocking and dropping our 2013 calendar and my Christmas card, enabling me to have plenty of conversations with residents on the doorstep on my way round.

I held a busy constituency advice surgery at Brierley Hill Library. Myself and my

Dudley South Conservative MP Chris Kelly takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views



"Age UK Dudley provide wonderful support to elderly people in our borough, many of whom would otherwise be very isolated."

experienced team are always available to help constituents — if you need any help or advice don't hesitate to get in touch using the contact information at the bottom or, if you have an issue you wish to raise with me, you can also make an appointment to attend one of my surgeries.

Champions

It was a delight to once again attend Midlands Got Talent at the friendly and welcoming Champions Church, Netherton — and even more delighted when 14-year-old Jess Powell from Kingswinford — already a powerful opera singer, won with her performance of Nessun Dorma.

I visited the Royal Mail sorting office in Kingswin-

ford to meet staff and thank them for their hard work delivering our Christmas cards and packets at this, the busiest time of the year for the postal service.

I enjoyed spending time with Age UK in Dudley starting with visiting one of the charity's sessions at Bromley Methodist Church hall in Pensnett to meet with several of the service's users, as well as some of the dedicated volunteers and staff like Jenny Bates who provide wonderful support to elderly people in our borough, many of whom would otherwise be very isolated. It is good to know, particularly at this time of year, that Age UK Dudley is there for our older residents.

Afterwards I was shown around Age UK Dudley's

excellent new facilities at the Merry Hill centre by Elaine Panchal of Age Concern Dudley Trading Limited, and Sally Huband, Chief Officer of Age UK Dudley.

The Age UK information and advice office provides shopmobility services for centre users as well as providing insurance, energy, funeral plans and other products to those who are 55 and older.

It is a great facility and a great shopfront raising the profile of this important charity in the borough. Westfield, owners of Merry Hill, are to be congratulated on their decision to work with and help Age UK Dudley for the good of our community.

Winning

Whilst there I was pleased to be able to draw the winning tickets for the Christmas raffle; some super prizes — including a giant teddy bear and brand new children's toys, all donated by kind-hearted local people — will shortly be on their way to the lucky winners.

I know that Age UK Dudley would welcome any new offers of assistance from willing volunteers. To volunteer call 01384 354 508 or email mail@ageukdudley.org.uk.

As this is my last column before Christmas it only remains for me to wish all readers a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.



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All smiles – Clive with wife Margaret

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THE work of the Denture Clinic has found satisfied customers from as far away as Spain. Its hand-crafted dentures, made in laboratories on the premises, are known for both their natural look and excellent function.

Suction solutions

ACUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve common stability problems. The Ultra Suction teeth are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices.

Implant-retained

Dentures which are retained by implant fixings offer a guaranteed solution for stability problems and have proven a popular option with patients.

All-on-4™ therapy

ONE of the most advanced restorative options for denture wearers is available in Dudley and Wolverhampton. An implant system called All-on-4 offers a permanently retained full arch of teeth in a day – ideal for people with busy lifestyles.

CLIVE was so afraid of the dentist he plucked up all of his courage and begged him to extract all of his teeth so that he'd never have problems ever again.

That was more than 20 years ago, but what the retired sales director didn't know was that his tooth troubles were far from over.

Following the extractions dentures were fitted and he no problems for a few years. But the ageing process took its toll and Clive experienced stability problems with the lower denture as his gums receded. For five years he endured the embarrassment of ill-fitting teeth, sore spots and denying himself favourite foods.

Clive recalls his first dental nightmare: Stationed at Malta, the Royal Navy man suddenly had raging toothache. "I'd been drinking to dull the pain but as soon as I was back on board the duty dentists was summoned. He'd been drinking too

and when he injected me broke off the needle in my gum. That was me finished with dentists." In recent years Clive had four denture relines to help the stability issues, but none provided a long-term solution.

Clive decided to have implant-retained dentures. He was referred by Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), whose Denture Clinic is based at North Street, Dudley, and in Tetterhall Road, Wolverhampton, to implantologist Mr Jonathon Pugh BDS MSc. Mr Pugh carried out the surgery and the prosthetics were hand-crafted by Mr Burchell.

Since having the implant-retained dentures, Clive has been able to bite into crispy apples and indulge himself with pork crackling. "It's the best money I've ever spent and it's been a real boost. I was dreading having it done, but I can honestly say I felt no pain at all," he says.

● The Denture Clinic now offers a full service at Fresh Dental, Bearwood, Smethwick.

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The Mount Pleasant

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MEMORY LANE



Sunbeam cars gathered for the unveiling of a blue plaque on the site in Penn



The racing car Toodles V at Brooklands, where it broke eight world records



Where the work took place – the Sunbeam racing car workshop in 1922

Days when Sunbeam raced ahead in Grand Prix stakes

by Alec Brew

FOR more than 60 years Britain has dominated Grand Prix manufacturing, but it was not always thus.

In the early days it was French cars which led the way, and, in the days before the World Championship, it was winning the French Grand Prix which was recognised as the pinnacle of motor-racing achievement.

The first British car to win the French Grand Prix, in 1923, was made right here in Wolverhampton, in Sunbeam's Blakenhall factory, but it's designer was a Frenchman, Louis Coatalen.

He was a Breton, born on September 11, 1879, and worked for a number of French car manufacturers before arriving in England in 1900 to work for the Crowden Company, and then becoming chief engineer at Hillman in Coventry.

In 1909 he was recruited by the Sunbeam Motor Car Co in Blakenhall, to be their chief engineer, and immediately planned to enter motor-racing. He began designing purpose-built racing cars, which led to the first major triumph, a win in the 1912 Coupe de l'Auto in Dieppe, Sunbeams coming 1st, 2nd and 3rd,

eclipsing and astonishing the major European manufacturers.

In 1912 Coatalen also designed his first aero-engine a 150hp side valve V8, followed by a 225 hp V12, which he first tested in a specially-built racing car named Toodles V.

In October 1913, this car, at Brooklands, broke eight world endurance speed records in a hour and a half. There is no doubt that Coatalen was a talented, even brilliant engineer, but he was not afraid of copying others.

Devious

During 1913 Peugeot cars with twin overhead camshafts swept the board in three litre racing, and by some devious means one of these found its way to the drawing room of Coatalen's home, Waverley House on Goldthorn Hill. Here, Sunbeam mechanics stripped it down to discover its secrets, and for 1914 Sunbeam also featured twin overhead camshafts, as did the new aero-engines he designed at the start of the War.

Sunbeam was a major supplier of aero-

engines during the War and also built more than 600 aircraft, including just one of its own design the single-engine Sunbeam Bomber.

All the engines were officially called Sunbeam-Coatalen engines, but after the War they were rather eclipsed by Rolls-Royce and Napier designs.

Coatalen turned to his great ambition, to win the French Grand Prix. The Sunbeam company merged with Darraq and Talbot and Coatalen became a Director of the resulting STD Motors.

In 1923 a Sunbeam finally won the French Grand Prix, driven by Henry Seagrave, and would have won the following year but for technical problems. Coatalen also produced three different cars to break the World Land Speed Record but Sunbeam began to experience financial difficulties, and in 1934 closed down.

By that time Louis Coatalen had returned to his native France, though he had taken British citizenship. He lived there through the War and died in 1962. He had brought great fame to the Sunbeam company, and to Wolverhampton, his adopted home for over 20 years.



Louis Coatalen, then aged 33, in 1912



Coatalen, centre, examining the Sunbeam Bomber in 1917 at the airfield in Castle Bromwich

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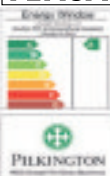
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Early View

CHRISTMAS TV

DECEMBER 22

BBC1



Bruce and Tess get ready for the Strictly Dancing final, 7pm

6.00 Breakfast A round-up of national and international news, plus sports reports, weather forecasts and arts and entertainment features. Including NewsWatch at 7.45. (C) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live** James Martin is joined by chefs and celebrity guests for the cookery show, also featuring highlights from the BBC archives and wine choices for the dishes prepared in the studio. (C) **11.30 TBA 12.00 BBC News: Regional News and Weather** (C) **12.15 Football Focus** Dan Walker previews the weekend's action. (C) **1.00 Live Equestrian** The Olympia International Horse Show. Clare Balding presents coverage of the sixth day of the event at the Olympia Grand Hall in London, featuring the World Cup show jumping event. (C) **4.30 Final Score** Gabby Logan presents a round-up of this afternoon's results from the Premier League, Football League and Scotland. (C) **5.20 BBC News: Regional News and Weather** (C) **5.40 A Question of Sport** Light-hearted quiz, hosted by Sue Barker. (C)

BBC2



The Mystery of Edwin Drood, psychological thriller

6.00 CBeebies 7.05 CBBC 12.00 FILM: Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993) The Pumpkin King of Halloween Town tries to bring scary and decides to take over Christmas. Stop-motion animated fantasy, with the voices of Chris Sarandon and Catherine O'Hara. (C) **1.10 FILM: The Wizard of Oz (1939)** The wizard Merlin takes the future King Arthur under his wing and teaches him the ways of the world. Disney animated adventure, with the voices of Ricky Sorenson and Karl Swenson. (C) **2.30 Nigellissima - An Italian Inspired Christmas** Niella Lawson prepares dishes for a Christmas party with an Italian twist, including Parmesan short-breads and turkey breast stuffed with sausage and marsala-steeped cranberries. (C) **3.30 FILM: The Game Plan (2007)** An American football star learns he has a daughter and struggles to cope with balancing fatherhood and his sporting career. Family comedy, with Dwayne Johnson and Madison Pettis. (C) **HH 5.15 The Toys That Made Christmas** Robert Webb takes a light-hearted look back at Christmas past through the toys people played with and loved over the years, including Fuzzy-Felt, Spirograph, Barbie and Meccano. (C) (R)

ITV1



Slade's Merry Christmas Everybody is in the running, 8pm

5.30 ITV Morning News (T) 6.00 CITV 9.25 ITN News (T) 9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA The host takes his successful talk-show stateside. (T) **10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA** The host takes his successful talk-show stateside. (T) **11.20 Murder, She Wrote** Jessica tries to ascertain whether four sisters are guilty of killing their wealthy father to benefit from a \$100million inheritance. Drama, starring Angela Lansbury. (T) **12.20 ITV News and Weather** (Weather: (T) **12.35 Steppin' Out with Katherine Jenkins** A cabaret show with the classical singer and star guests. (T) **3.50 You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates more camcorder calamities and viewers' mobile-phone footage, including a beagle's battle with a dishwasher and a teenager taking on a praying mantis. (T) **4.20 Central News and Weather** (Weather: (T) **4.50 FILM: Back to the Future Part III (1990)** Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Michael J Fox. (T)

Channel 4



Four Christmases with Reese Witherspoon and Robert Duval

6.05 Sail Mail Jackdaw helps Sali Mali when she gets the flu. (T) (R) **6.10 The Hoobs** The friends visit Peep gardens. (T) (R) **6.35 The Hoobs** The friends visit Peep gardens. (T) (R) **7.00 The Endemur Arch to Arc Triathlon 7.30 TBA 7.55 The Morning Line (T) 8.55 T4: Everybody Loves Raymond** Part one of two. Marie surprises the family. (T) (R) **9.30 T4: Fraser** Roz asks Fraser to narrate a documentary. (T) (R) **10.00 FILM: T4: Space Chimps (2008)** Premiere. Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Andy Samberg. (T) **HH 11.45 T4: The Big Bang Theory** Priya asks Leonard to spend less time with Penny. (T) **12.10 T4: The Big Bang Theory** Sheldon's online gaming account is hacked. (T) **12.40 T4: The Simpsons** Homer becomes head of the local Mafia. (T) **1.15 T4: The Simpsons** Bart becomes a jazz drummer. (T) **1.45 Channel 4 Racing (T) 3.50 Come Dine with Me: Celebrity Christmas Special (T) (R) 4.20 Come Dine with Me: Celebrity Christmas Special (T) (R) 4.50 Come Dine with Me: Celebrity Christmas Special (T) (R) 5.55 Come Dine with Me: Celebrity Christmas Special (T) (R)**

Channel 5



Patrick Stewart stars in A Christmas Carol, 8.10pm

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 TBA 10.05 Dallas Updated version of the soap, following the glamorous lives and vicious feuds of Texas oil dynasty the Ewings. Starring Josh Henderson and Jesse Metcalfe. (T) **11.00 Once Upon a Time** Fantasy drama, starring Jennifer Morrison. (T) **12.00 Once Upon a Time** A second helping of the fantasy drama. Regina steps up her efforts to get Emma out of town. (T) **12.55 FILM: Crazy for Christmas (2005)** Family drama, starring Andrea Roth. (T) **HH 2.45 FILM: Dear Santa (2011)** Premiere. Romantic comedy, starring Amy Acker and David Haydn-Jones. **HH 4.35 FILM: I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus (2002)** Family comedy featuring the classic song I saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus, with stars including Connie Sellecca.

Prime Time

6.10 Pointless Celebrities Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present as famous faces take part in the general knowledge quiz. (C)

7.00 Strictly Come Dancing - The Final Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present the eagerly anticipated final, the climax of a series that has seen slips, trips, a flying bicycle and even dancing on the judges' table. There has also been plenty of bickering between the fearsome foursome. Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcy Bussell, while the celebrities faced their demons on the dance floor to tackle a range of ballroom and Latin routines. Tonight will be no less daunting, with the show dance offering each of the three couples the chance to include lifts, tricks and signature moves in a bid to win over the public. (C)

8.15 Merlin In the penultimate episode, Morgana prepares to wage war on Camelot, while Merlin finds the burden of his destiny weighing heavy as the ancient prophecies play out with unerring accuracy. It soon becomes clear that the young wizard must find a way to save himself before he can help his allies bring about the salvation of his beloved kingdom. Cole Morgan, Bradley James and Katie McGrath star. (C)

9.00 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws The all-important numbers. (C)

9.10 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results The celebrities return to the ballroom one last time, and following an elimination just two couples remain to battle it out for the glitterball trophy. While the votes are counted, all this year's contestants take to the dance floor for a final routine, and as the tension mounts, the names of the 2012 champions are revealed. (C)

10.10 BBC News: Weather (C)

10.30 Match of the Day Gabby Logan is joined by Alan Hansen to present highlights of today's Premier League clashes, including Manchester City v Reading at the Etihad Stadium and Wigan Athletic v Arsenal at the DW Stadium. Plus, Liverpool v Fulham, Newcastle United v Queens Park Rangers, Southampton v Sunderland, Tottenham Hotspur v Stoke City, West Bromwich Albion v Norwich City and West Ham United v Everton. (C)

6.40 Porridge Barrowclough and Mackay discover Fletcher is cooking up some home brew, and the crafty con seems certain to spend Christmas in solitary confinement. Festive edition of the classic comedy from 1976, starring Ronnie Barker and Richard Beckinsale. (C) (R)

7.30 TOTP2 Christmas 2012 (C)

9.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks Xmas Special Another round of the comedy music quiz. (C)

9.30 The Mystery of Edwin Drood Psychological thriller based on Charles Dickens' unfinished final novel. Christopher John Jasper is a troubled man, frustrated by his life in the claustrophobic cathedral town of Cloisterham, addicted to opium as he seeks to expand his horizons and obsessed with the 17-year-old Rosa. The only thing standing between him and his life is his own nephew, Edwin Drood. Matthew Rhys, Tamzin Merchant and Freddie Fox star in the first of this two-part adaptation. (C) (R)

10.30 The Mystery of Edwin Drood Psychological drama. Jasper awakes in the gatehouse and to his horror sees the black scarf wound tightly round his hands, reminding him of the murderous events of the night before. Despite his feelings of guilt, as the weeks pass he seeks solace in his passion for Rosa But - but as he begins to reach for his prize, the Rev Crisparkle and Bazzard are following a trail of evidence to the cathedral crypt that may yet seal the choirmaster's fate. Conclusion of the period thriller based on Charles Dickens' unfinished final novel, starring Matthew Rhys and Tamzin Merchant. (C) (R)

11.30 The Story of Fairytale of New York The making of the classic Christmas song, recorded by Irish group The Pogues, and featuring British singer Kirsty MacColl, who tragically died in a swimming accident protecting her sons. The folk song, released originally in 1987, has become a perennial Christmas classic (C) (R)

12.00 The Football League Show Action from today's games. (C) **1.15 Weather** (C) **1.20 Sign Zone: Rolling Stones: Crossfire Hurricane** Part one of two. Profile of the veteran rock band. (C) (R) **2.20 Sign Zone: Rolling Stones: Crossfire Hurricane** Concluding part of the documentary charting the 50-year career of the band. (C) (R) **3.20 Sign Zone: Nigellissima - An Italian Inspired Christmas** Niella Lawson prepares festive dishes with an Italian twist. (C) **4.20 BBC News 4.20 BBC News, 4.30 Click, 5.00 BBC News, 5.30 Brazil: Welcoming the World. (C)**

12.25 QI David Tennant, Bill Bailey and Lee Mack join regular panelist Alan Davies to answer questions with a groovy theme, with points awarded for the answers host Stephen Fry finds most interesting. (C) (R) **12.55 Never Mind the Buzzcocks** A look back at some of the highlights of the latest series of the comedy quiz, in which team captains Noel Fielding and Phill Jupitus were joined by guest hosts including Mark Garmah, Kathy Burke, Richard Ayoade, Nick Grimshaw, Ne-Yo, Example and Jack Whitehall. Last in the series. (C) (R) **1.25 FILM: Film TBA 3.25 Close**

7.00 Paddy's 2012 Show and Telly Paddy McGuinness hosts a celebrity quiz in which three pairs of familiar faces answer questions about the past year's dramas, documentaries, sporting moments, comedies and game shows. Strictly Come Dancing's Denise Van Outen and Nicky Byrne, newswriters Kate Garraway and Nicholas Owen, and Coronation Street's Antony Cotton (Sean Tully) and Chris Fountain (Tommy Duckworth) face a series of elimination rounds as they battle to win up to £20,000 for charity. (T)

8.00 The Nation's Favourite Christmas Song To mark the 70th anniversary of the release of the best-selling festive song of all time - Bing Crosby's 'White Christmas' - this documentary counts down the top 20 tunes guaranteed to get people in the Christmas spirit. Voted for by the public. Featuring hits such as Wizzard's 'I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day', Fairytale of New York by the Pogues and Kirsty MacColl, Slade's 'Merry Xmas Everybody' and Mariah Carey's 'All I Want for Christmas Is You', the programme tells the stories behind these ever-popular seasonal favourites, with contributions by Cliff Richard, Jones, Lewie, Paul Young, Aled Jones, Noddy Holder, Shane MacGowan, Greg Lake, Katherine Jenkins and more. (T)

9.30 The Jonathan Ross Show The host presents a celebrity-packed festive edition of his chat show. Funnymen Michael McIntyre pulls a few Christmas crackers, Sienna Miller talks about her new BBC drama The Girl, Sheridan Smith has two TV shows to plug - Mr Stink and Panto! - and Jamie Oliver cooks up a few yuletide treats. Welsh songbird Charlotte Church provides the music, and Paralympics star Ellie Simmonds and Jonnie Peacock are also in the studio. Plus, a performance by Slava's Snowshow. (T)

11.00 ITV News and Weather; Weather. (T)

11.15 Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991) Sci-fi action adventure sequel, with Arnold Schwarzenegger. (T)

1.45 Jackpot247 Viewers are offered the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with an entertaining mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. Featuring a variety of prizes and promotions. **3.15 In Plain Sight** Mary protects a pair of brothers, one of whom develops a gambling addiction. Mary McCormack stars. (T) (R) **4.05 ITV Nightvision** Text-based information service.

6.25 The Snowman Raymond Briggs' festive favourite, a wordless animated fantasy telling the story of a small boy whose snowman magically comes to life and whisks him off on the journey of a lifetime to the North Pole. (T) (R)

6.55 TBA

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather. (T)

7.25 4thought.tv A Muslim who campaigns to integrate Islamic values with British society calls on all members of the faith to respond to blasphemy in a rational and non-violent manner. (T)

7.30 Stephen Fry: Gadget Man Stephen has a look at technology for the health and fitness market, testing the latest gym gadgets and receiving a makeover from former Towie star Amy Childs - who uses some weird and wonderful beauty devices. Other gadgets on the show include an app that predicts how long people will live, a hi-tech treadmill and a device that claims to make the user slimmer in just 30 minutes. Stephen also attempts to build the ultimate running machine that will enable him to race against double Olympic champion Kelly Holmes. (T)

8.00 My Big Fat Gypsy Christmas One-off special following the Irish travelling community during the festive season, featuring their Yuletide preparations for 2012, as well as two typically extravagant weddings and a First Communion ceremony. Celebrity Big Brother winner Paddy Doherty and his wife Roseanne also invite the cameras into their Salford home on Christmas Day, and the film introduces new families to the viewers. (T) (R)

9.00 Four Christmases (2008) Premiere. A couple, both of whom's parents are divorced, have always managed to avoid family Christmases by travelling overseas. However, when their flight is cancelled, all four parents insist they spend the day with them - forcing them to get through four family Christmases on the same day. Comedy, starring Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon. (T)

10.45 Die Hard 2 (1990) Tough cop John McClane arrives at an airport to pick up his wife but finds himself plunged into a bloody life-or-death struggle. Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis, Bonnie Bedelia, William Sadler, Franco Nero and William Atherton. (T)

1.00 FILM: Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale (2010) Premiere. Comedy horror, starring Onni Tommila. (English Subtitles) **2.25 Holyoaks Omnibus** Cheryl doubts where Ste's affections truly lie, and Texas worries her big secret might be exposed as Dodger and Sienna spend more time together. (T) **4.30 90210** Annie is forced to make a decision that could expose her work as an escort when Dixon gets arrested in connection with a fire. Adriana and Silver try to put their past behind them, and Vanessa organises a concert by rock band the All-American Rejects to relaunch Liam's bar. (T) **5.10 Sailing With Mario** Adriani. (T)

6.20 Mrs Miracle 2: Miracle in Manhattan (2010) The kindly Mrs Merkle takes a job in the toy section of a financially struggling department store. She helps the downtrodden manager to enjoy a happy Christmas for once by making a success of the business and finding love. Family drama sequel, starring Doris Roberts, Eric Johnson, Jewel Stalte and Lauren Holly.

8.05 5 News Weekend Round-up of the day's headlines from around the world. (T)

8.10 A Christmas Carol (1999) Miserly Ebenezer Scrooge loathes the Christmas season until, late one night, he is visited by a series of ghosts who intend to change his attitude by showing him visions of his past, his present and the fate that will await him if he continues with his cold-hearted behaviour. An excellent adaptation of Dickens' classic tale, with an imposing Patrick Stewart, magnificent Richard E Grant, Joel Grey, Ian McNeice, Saskia Reeves, Tim Potter and Desmond Barrit. (T)

10.00 An Audience with Ken Dodd Comedy and entertainment from Knotty Ash's favourite funnymen, and a man who is particularly fond of Shropshire. This comedian never knows when to stop and regularly overruns his performances as he did recording this. In a programme originally aired in 1994 to mark his 40th year in showbusiness. Among the celebrity and appreciative audience helping him celebrate are the late Irish comic Frank Carson, Paul Daniels, Jane Horrocks, Belinda Lang, Carol Vorderman, Warren Mitchell and Kevin Whately. The show is condensed into two hours - when Dodd takes the stage for his legendary live stand-up act. It goes on much longer... (T) (R)

12.00 SuperCasino Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00 Michaela's Wild Challenge** Michaela learns about meerkats. (T) (R) **4.25 Great Artists** Profile of Tiziano Vecellio, known as Titian. (T) (R) **4.50 Rough Guide to Eco Escapes** Morocco, Kenya and Nicaragua. (T) (R) **5.05 Hana's Helpline** Gwenda the giraffe struggles to share her best friend. (T) (R) **5.15 The Milkshake! Show** The housemates from the Big All-American Rejects to relaunch Liam's bar. (T) **5.10 Sailing With Mario** Adriani. (T) **5.50 Roary the Racing Car** Maxi becomes afraid of racing. (T) (R)

Late View

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DECEMBER 23

CHRISTMAS TV



 Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group

Pharmacies opening over the Holiday Period

Christmas Day Pharmacies

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Holly Hall Pharmacy, 178 Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall, Dudley. 10am-6pm

Boxing Day Pharmacies

Asda Pharmacy, Merryhill Centre. 9am-5pm

Pearson Street, Brierley Hill. 9am-5pm

Cornbow Shopping Centre, Halesowen. 9am-5pm

Boots UK Ltd., Merry Hill Centre. 8am-6pm

25-26 Market Place, Dudley. 10am-4pm

16-18 Market Street, Kingswinford. 10am-4pm

5 Ryemarket, Stourbridge. 10am-2pm

Lloyds Pharmacy, Off Little Cottage Street, Brierley Hill. 10am-2pm

Dudley Street, Sedgley. 10am-2pm

New Years Day Pharmacies

Asda Pharmacy, Merryhill Centre. 10am-4pm

Pearson Street, Brierley Hill 10am-4pm

Cornbow Shopping Centre, Halesowen. 10am-4pm

Boots UK Ltd., Merry Hill Centre. 10am-6pm

Lloyds Pharmacy, Off Little Cottage Street, Brierley Hill. 10am-2pm

Sainsburys Pharmacy, Merry Hill Centre. 10am-5pm

Sandringham Way, Brierley Hill. 10am-5pm

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Early View

Prime Time

Late View

BBC1



Can Villa striker Benteke bring down the Blues?

6.00 Breakfast News, sport and entertainment reports. (C) **7.30 Match of the Day** Gabby Logan presents highlights of yesterday's Premier League clashes, including Manchester City v Reading at the Etihad Stadium and Wigan Athletic v Arsenal at the DW Stadium. (C) (R) **9.00 David Suchet: In the Footsteps of St Paul** Part one of two. The actor tracks the man who brought Christianity to the masses. (C) **10.00 The Nativity** Retelling of the biblical story, starring Andrew Buchan and Tatiana Maslany. (C) (R) **11.00 Fern Britton Meets Dionne Warwick** (1993) Fact-based comedy about four Jamaicans who became the first bobsleigh team to compete for their country at the 1988 Winter Olympics. Starring John Candy, Leon and Doug E Doug. (C) **HHH 3.30 The Borrowers** Fantasy adventure, starring Stephen Fry and Christopher Eccleston. (C) (R) **4.55 Songs of Praise** David Grant presents carols by candlelight. (C) **5.30 Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas** Part two of two. Centrepieces, sweet treats and making clever use of leftovers. (C) (R)

BBC2



Sarah Millican Television Programme Xmas 2012

6.00 CBeebies 6.45 CBBC 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites James Martin presents highlights of the series, recalling his favourite moments from the past year in the kitchen. (C) **11.30 The Great British Bake Off Christmas Masterclass** Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood demonstrate how to make a number of festive favourites, including mince pies and Christmas pudding, as well as new recipes for tasty treats. (C) (R) **12.30 FILM: The Preacher's Wife** (1996) Romantic fantasy remake, starring Whitney Houston and Denzel Washington. (C) **HH 2.30 Escape to the Country** People search for their ideal rural retreats. (C) (R) **3.15 Coast** The team visits locations around the British shoreline, telling stories and investigating mysteries that have played an important role in the nation's heritage. (C) (R) **3.30 Flog It!** People are invited to try to make money by selling their antiques at auction. (C) (R) **4.30 FILM: First Knight** (1995) A wandering swordsman is made a knight at King Arthur's court, where he falls in love with the monarch's lover. Adventure, starring Richard Gere, Sean Connery and Julia Ormond. (C)

ITV1



Vintage Carry On comedy in the Wild West, 1.45pm

6.00 CITV 9.25 There's No Taste Like Home Gino D'Acampo travels to Clitheroe in Lancashire, where he helps three home cooks prepare their family recipes for a Turkish chicken dish, fish pie and French veal. (T) **10.10 Diva** Date Kate from Worcester takes part in the matchmaking show, choosing three blind dates from five potential partners, based entirely on menus they have created. (T) (R) **11.20 All Star Family Fortunes** Singer Suzanne Shaw takes on Coronation Street's William Roache. (T) (R) **12.05 ITV News and Weather**; Weather. (T) **12.15 Columbo 1.45 FILM: Carry On Cowboy** (1966) A timid English sanitation expert is mistakenly made sheriff of a lawless Wild West town plagued by notorious outlaw the Rumpo Kid. Comedy/Western, starring Jim Dale and Sid James. (T) **3.30 FILM: Twins** (1988) Genetically designed twin brothers who were separated at birth set out on an adventure in search of their long-lost mother. Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito. (T) **5.30 You've Been Framed!** Comedian Harry Hill narrates a selection of camcorder calambos and viewers' mobile phone footage. (T) (R)

Channel 4



Damian Lewis stars in Homeland on at 9pm

6.05 The Hoobs The friends visit Peep gardens. (T) (R) **6.30 The Hoobs** Iver wants to ride in a police car. (T) (R) **6.55 TBA 7.25 TBA 7.50 TBA 7.55 The Bear** A large furry bear arrives from the zoo to take up temporary residence with a little girl and her parents. Heart-warming children's animation from the pen of Raymond Briggs. (T) (R) **8.25 Frasier** Niles and Frasier try to help their old school. (T) (R) **9.00 Frasier** Niles spoils Frasier's new radio show. (T) (R) **9.30 Xmas Sunday Brunch** Festive edition. Guests include The Gypsy Queens. (T) **12.00 The Big Bang Theory** Amy and Sheldon start a gossip experiment. (T) (R) **12.30 The Big Bang Theory** Priya finds a loophole in the room-mate agreement. (T) (R) **1.00 The Simpsons** Marge starts a carpentry business, but quickly learns she will need more than mere skill if her venture is to succeed. Fearing sexism, she appoints Homer a figurehead. (T) (R) **1.30 Kirstie's Vintage Christmas** Kirstie Allsopp shows how to add the perfect festive touches. (T) (R) **2.30 Deal or No Deal** Game show, with Noel Edmonds. (T) **3.30 100 Greatest Toys with Jonathan Ross** A countdown of the nation's favourite games and playthings. (T) (R)

Channel 5



Billy Bob Thornton is Bad Santa, on at 9pm

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 TBA 10.15 Dallas JR secretly moves the Southfork deal along, but becomes suspicious of John Ross's relationship with the Del Solis, while Rebecca suggests Christopher should cancel their honeymoon. (T) **11.15 Once Upon a Time** Prince Charming is ambushed by feisty thief Snow White. (T) (R) **12.15 Once Upon a Time** Cinderella regrets making a deal with Rumpelstiltskin. (T) (R) **1.15 FILM: The Santa Suit** (2010) Comedy, starring Kevin Sorbo. **HH 3.50 FILM: It's a Very Merry Muppet Christmas Movie** (2002) Festive comedy, with Joan Cusack and Whoopi Goldberg. **HH 4.45 FILM: The Family Man** (2000) Drama, starring Nicolas Cage. **HH**

6.00 BBC News: Regional News and Weather (C)
6.30 Countryfile Matt Baker and Julia Bradbury bring us the latest rural developments, including reports on issues affecting country communities and insights into the life of the modern farmer. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. (C)
7.30 Antiques Roadshow Fiona Bruce presents a look back at the most important and talked-about finds from the most recent series, including highlights from the programmes themselves, as well as updates on the items, whether they went to auction, were kept or were lent to exhibitions. (C)
8.30 Loving Miss Hatto Drama about classical pianist Joyce Hatto, written by Victoria Wood. The story begins in early-1950s London, when she met her future husband William Barrington-Coupe, and tells their love story right up until 50 years later. With his wife stricken by cancer, record producer William released other musicians' work under her name, which became known as one of the biggest music frauds ever. Francesca Annis and Alfred Molina are among the cast. (C)
10.00 BBC News: Regional News and Weather (C)
10.25 Match of the Day 2 Mark Chapman is joined by Alan Shearer and Dion Dublin to present highlights of today's Premier League fixtures, which were Swansea City v Manchester United at the Liberty Stadium and Chelsea v Aston Villa at Stamford Bridge. United earned a 1-0 win in last season's corresponding fixture against the Swans, while the Blues suffered a shock 3-1 home defeat at the hands of the Villans last term, an outcome that the visitors will have been desperate to emulate to aid them in their fight against relegation. Plus, all the goals from yesterday's fixtures. (C)
11.25 The Graham Norton Show With movie legend Dustin Hoffman, comedy double-act Billy Connolly and Jennifer Saunders and the current Doctor Who star Matt Smith. (C) (R)

6.35 The Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show Festive fun from 1973 with the ever-popular comedy duo and guests Vanessa Redgrave, Hannah Gordon, Rudolf Nureyev, Laurence Olivier and André Previn, all proving they are game for a laugh. Comic highlights include what is probably the couple's most famous sketch, which takes place in Eric and Ernie's bedroom. (C) (R)
7.35 Victoria Wood with All the Trimmings The comedienne sends up Christmas TV in a festive special from 2000. Guest stars including Julie Walters, Alan Rickman, Pete Postlethwaite, Celia Imrie, James Bolam, Della Smith, Richard E Grant, Derek Jacobi, Alan Titchmarsh, Michael Parkinson and Imelda Staunton pop up in pastiches of everything from a big-band show from the 1950s to a Dickens period drama. (C) (R)
8.30 Morecambe & Wise: Song & Dance Sketches More classic clowning from the legendary double act who have been a Christmas institution for decades (C)
9.30 James May's Toy Stories: Flight Club The Top Gear presenter investigates the enduring appeal of the model aeroplane and sets out with the intention of achieving the first flight across the Channel by an engineless, homemade superpowered toy – breaking the British distance record in the process. During his quest, James turns Indiana Jones to unearth surprising new evidence identifying children as the true pioneers of flight and wrestles with an underperforming craft that threatens to barely leave the ground. (C)
10.30 The Sarah Millican Television Programme Xmas 2012 The award-winning comedienne hosts a special Christmas edition of her show, in which she delivers short stand-up routines inspired by festive TV. Sarah is joined by Downtown Abbey star Hugh Bonneville and Shane Richie of EastEnders for a spot of Yuletide conversation. (C)
11.00 Victoria Wood: As Seen on TV The comedienne reflects on her television career with a combination of sketches, stand-up and songs. (C) (R)

6.00 Central News and Weather; Weather. (T)
6.30 You've Been Framed! Comedian Harry Hill narrates a selection of camcorder calamities and viewers' mobile phone footage. (T) (R)
7.00 Ade's Christmas Crackers Comic Ade Edmondson delves deep into the television archives to share some broadcasting gems and moments of TV gold which have been broadcast over the past 60 years (T)
8.00 The Cube TV presenter Melvyn Sykes tackles up to seven seemingly simple challenges inside the giant transparent box, aiming to win £250,000 for good causes. Diversity star Ashley Banjo also takes a shot at scooping the charity jackpot – but will his 6ft 5 frame come in handy as the cube presents him with a series of fiendishly difficult tasks? The contestants both receive nine lives at the start, but with each one they lose, the pressure mounts. Phillip Schofield hosts. (T)
9.00 Doors Open Bored millionaire Mike Mackenzie is a man with a broken heart and too much time on his hands. Incensed by wealthy patrons hiding works of art away in private collections, he and two close friends – a professor and a banker – devise a plot to swap priceless masterpieces stored in a gallery's warehouse with near-perfect forgeries. If successful, Mike will save the paintings and might just win back the love of his life, auctioneer Laura Stanton, who left him five years earlier. Thriller based on the book by Ian Rankin, starring Douglas Henshall, Stephen Fry, Kenneth Collard, Lenora Crichtlow and Brian McCordie. (T)
11.00 ITV News and Weather; Weather. (T)
11.15 Fool Britannia Hidden-camera pranks, with Dom Joly poking fun at what it means to be British, with a string of eccentric pranks. (T) (R)
11.45 Premiership Rugby Union Action from the latest round of fixtures. (T)

6.30 Channel 4 News Including a round-up of the day's sport and weather. (T)
6.55 4thought.tv John Holme talks about becoming a Christian and shares his belief that humans are born sinners. (T)
7.00 Night at the Museum (2006) A new nightwatchman at New York's Museum of Natural History discovers his job entails more than he bargained for. Once night falls, an ancient Egyptian spell brings the museum exhibits to life, entangling him in a riotous struggle to restore peace and order before the sun rises and visitors arrive. Fantasy comedy, starring Ben Stiller, Dick Van Dyke, Robin Williams, Carla Gugino and Ricky Gervais. (T)
9.00 Homeland US marine Nicholas Brody is rescued from captivity in Afghanistan, eight years after going missing in action. He returns home to a hero's welcome – but CIA agent Carrie Mathison believes there is more to his case than meets the eye, and suspects he is secretly working on behalf of a notorious terrorist. Thriller, starring Claire Danes, Damian Lewis, Morena Baccarin, Mary McCormack and David Harewood. (T)
10.00 Peep Show Comedy chronicling the rather chaotic friendship and private innermost thoughts of two misfits with an unhealthy reliance on one another. Robert Webb and David Mitchell star. (T)
10.30 Dorian Gray (2009) A naive Victorian man unwittingly sells his soul for eternal youth, wishing that a portrait of him should age instead. His wish is granted and he is drawn into a life of debauchery by a hedonistic lord, while over the years, the painting becomes increasingly horrific as it reflects his corrupt true nature. Horror, based on Oscar Wilde's short story, starring Ben Barnes, Colin Firth and Ben Chaplin. (T)

7.00 5 News Weekend Round-up of the day's headlines across the UK and from around the world. (T)
7.05 Christmas with the Kranks (2004) A married couple from Chicago decide to steer clear of the usual festive celebrations and keep their cash for a holiday in the sun, prompting a busybody neighbour to call on the young and old members of the community to pull out all the stops to make them change their minds. Festive comedy that's a little disappointing when you consider the quality of the cast. Based on a novel by John Grisham, starring Jamie Lee Curtis, Tim Allen, Dan Aykroyd and M Emmet Walsh.
9.00 Bad Santa (2003) A grumpy alcoholic safecracker takes a job as an in-store Father Christmas with a view to robbing his employers' premises – but a bullied kid, a Santa-loving barmad and an overzealous security guard look set to wreck his plans for an inside job. Thought-provoking black comedy, starring a great performance from a spot-on Billy Bob Thornton, Tony Cox, Brett Kelly, Lauren Graham, Bernie Mac and John Ritter.
11.05 Superbad (2007) Teen comedy, starring Jonah Hill and Michael Cera. Two immature high school students, who have been almost inseparable best pals, are forced to deal with separation anxieties as their plans to host a booze-fuelled party go badly awry.

12.10 FILM: Grumpy Old Men (1993) Comedy, starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau. (C) **1.50 Weatherview** (C) **1.55 Sign Zone: Film** 2012 Reviews of Jack Reacher, Pitch Perfect, Life of Pi and Midnight's Children. (C) (R) **2.25 Sign Zone: Hobby City** Michael jeopardises his relationship with Ramona. (C) (R) **3.25 Sign Zone: Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas** Part one of two. Nigel creates a selection of festive dishes. (C) (R) **3.50 Sign Zone: Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas** Part two of two. Centrepieces, sweet treats and making clever use of leftovers. (C) (R) **4.20 BBC News** 4.20 BBC News. 4.30 HARDtalk. 5.00 BBC News. 5.30 World Business Report. 5.45 BBC News. (C)

12.45 Jackpot247 Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **2.45 River Monsters** Jeremy Wade heads to Thailand in search of the giant freshwater stingray, one of the world's largest and most terrifying river fish. Armed with a venomous 10in barb on the end of its whip-like tail, this 700lb predator tests the extreme angler to his physical limits, eventually snapping his rod and ripping his bicep. (T) (R) **3.45 ITV Nightscreen**

12.30 C4 Comedy Presents: Them from Jon Thing Part two of two. Sketches, with Blake Harrison and Morgana Robinson. (T) (R) **1.00 American Football Live** A match from the NFL. (T) **4.45 Supernanny US** The Froebrechts ask Jo Frost to help them control their children, whose behaviour has grown worse due to the stress of their grandmother coming to live with them. (T) **5.25 90210** Annie volunteers to organise a major charity event, hoping it will enable her to put her inheritance to good use. Naomi makes a risky bid to secure a client for her new business. (T) **5.35 FILM: Andre** (1994) Family drama, starring Keith Carradine. (T) (H)

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CHRISTMAS TV

CHRISTMAS EVE

BBC1



Agnes finds herself facing her busiest Christmas ever, 10.10pm

6.00 **Breakfast** Round-up of national and international news, plus the latest from the money markets. (C) 9.00 **David Suchet In the Footsteps of St Paul** Part two of two. How Paul brought Christianity to the Mediterranean world. (C) 10.00 **The Nativity Conclusion**. Joseph still cannot accept Mary's pregnancy, but as the people turn against her, Joachim begs his son-in-law to take her to safety in Bethlehem. (C) 11.00 **TBA 12.00 BBC News; Weather** (C) 12.15 **FILM: The Santa Clause** (1994) A divorced father accidentally kills Santa Claus on Christmas Eve and is forced to deliver the presents himself. Fantasy comedy, with Tim Allen, Judge Reinhold and Wendy Crewson. (C) 1.55 **FILM: The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian** (2008) The four Pevensie children return to the magical land of Narnia to help the right king reclaim his throne. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Ben Barnes and William Moseley. (C) 4.10 **TBA 5.05 FILM: Lady and the Tramp** (1955) A pet dog is driven from her home, and learns to live on the streets with the aid of a roguish stray. Disney animated adventure, with the voices of Barbara Luddy and Larry Roberts. (C)

BBC2



And it's Merry Christmas from them... The Two Ronnies

6.00 **CBeebies** 7.05 **CBBC 9.00 FILM: Who Framed Roger Rabbit** (1988) Comedy mixing live action and animation, starring Bob Hoskins. (C) 10.35 **FILM: Christmas Snow** (1986) A miserly landlord throws a widow and her children out of their home, but finds he needs their help when he gets lost in a blizzard. Drama, with Sid Caesar and Katherine Helmond. (C) 11.20 **The Great British Bake Off** Cooks battle it out to be named Britain's best amateur baker. (C) 12.20 **FILM: Flight of the Navigator** (1986) Sci-fi adventure, starring Joey Cramer. (C) 1.45 **Wartime Farm** Christmas Rural life during the Christmas of 1944. (C) 2.45 **Equestrian** The Olympia International Horse Show. Clare Balding presents action from the seventh and final day of the prestigious event at the Olympia Grand Hall in London. (C) 3.45 **FILM: Nativity!** (2009) A primary school teacher becomes a local celebrity when he dishonestly claims Hollywood is interested in his nativity play. Comedy, starring Martin Freeman and Ashley Jensen. (C) 4.10 **Dad's Army** Frazer is unable to hide his delight when Captain Mainwaring's respectable brother gatecrashes a sherry party for local dignitaries. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (C) (R)

ITV1



Jim Carrey is The Grinch in this film fantasy at 4.45pm

5.30 **ITV Morning News** (T) 6.00 **CITV** (T) 8.15 **FILM: Scooby-Doo and the Cyber Chase** (2001) The curious quartet are transported inside a video game, and must battle their way out through puzzles and mazes. Animated adventure, with the voices of Bob Bergen and Scott Innes. (T) 9.25 **FILM: Dennis** (1993) A well-meaning little boy's inability to stay out of trouble consistently infuriates his curmudgeonly old neighbour. Slapstick comedy, starring Walter Matthau and Mason Gamble. (T) 11.10 **Dinner Date** Matchmaking show in which contestants choose three blind dates based entirely on menus created by five potential partners. (T) 12.10 **ITV News and Weather** (T) 12.30 **The Chase** Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (T) 1.30 **Doc Martin** Comedy drama, starring Martin Clunes. (T) (R) 3.30 **Rod Stewart's Christmas** The rock star performs festive songs at Stirling Castle. (T) (R)

Channel 4



The Snowman and the Snowdog, animated film at 7pm

7.25 **Famous Fred** Animation about a singing cat, with the voice of Lenny Henry. (T) (R) 7.55 **TBA 8.00 Ivor the Invisible** Children's animation. (T) (R) 8.30 **FILM: Christmas Carol: The Movie** (2001) Animated drama, with the voices of Simon Callow and Kate Winslet. (T) 11.10 **The Big Bang Theory** Army and Penny use Bernadette to spy on Leonard and Priya. (T) (R) 10.35 **The Big Bang Theory** Howard tells his mother he is engaged to Bernadette. (T) (R) 11.05 **The Simpsons** Lisa becomes a Buddhist. (T) (R) 11.35 **The Simpsons** Bart is caught shoplifting. (T) (R) 12.10 **FILM: The Muppet Christmas Carol** (1992) Puppet comedy, starring Michael Caine. (T) 1.50 **FILM: Scrooged** (1988) Christmas comedy, starring Bill Murray. (T) 3.45 **Deal or No Deal's Big Christmas Dinner** Noel Edmonds hosts a seasonal edition of the game show. (T) 4.45 **The Simpsons** Halloween-inspired tales. (T) (R) 5.15 **The Simpsons** With the guest voice of Kiefer Sutherland. (T) (R) 5.45 **Channel 4 News** including sport and weather. (T) 5.55 **4thought** Members of the public reflect on religious issues. (T)

Channel 5



The Queen at Cosford as part of her Jubilee Tour, at 8pm

6.00 **Milkshake!** 9.45 **TBA 9.50 Dallas JR** decides to move back to Southfork – but a dark cloud looms on the horizon as the Ewings' old adversary Cliff Barnes makes an unwelcome return. (T) (R) 10.45 **TBA 11.45 Once Upon a Time** The mine collapses, trapping Henry and Archie inside. (T) (R) 12.40 **Once Upon a Time** Prince Charming is slain by an opponent after a tournament. (T) (R) 1.40 **FILM: Mistletoe Over Manhattan** (2011) Christmas fantasy, starring Tricia Helfer and Greg Bryk. (T) 3.30 **FILM: Lost Holiday: The Jim and Suzanne Shemwell Story** (2007) Fact-based drama, starring Dylan Walsh and Jami Gertz. (T) 5.15 **FILM: Scrooged - A Christmas Carol** (1951) Charles Dickens' fantasy, starring Alastair Sim. (HHH)

Early View

6.20 **BBC News**; Weather. (C)
6.35 **Midlands Today**; Weather. (C)
6.45 **A Christmas Carol** (2009) Premier. A foul-tempered Victorian miser who hates the festive season is visited on Christmas Eve by a series of ghosts. The spirits intend to make him mend his wicked ways by showing him visions of the past, the present and what the future will hold for him if he does not change for the better.

8.15 **Merlin** As a fierce battle rages on Camelot's mighty plain, just as the prophecies foresaw, Merlin must find the strength to overcome his greatest challenge yet as he seeks a way to protect Camelot. As he fights to save the kingdom from the attacking hordes and keep Arthur safe from harm, the young wizard must finally come face to face with his destiny. The last-ever episode of the magical adventure series. (C)

9.00 **EastEnders** Max and Tanya call off the wedding after Lauren's alcohol-fuelled outburst. Alfie soldiers on, while Lola is devastated when Phil tells her Lola will not be home for Christmas. (C)

9.30 **Outnumbered Christmas Special** The Brockmans do their bit for the community by throwing a Christmas party for their friends and neighbours – but as they might have known, the party games seem to go with a swing, thanks to organiser Ben. (C)

10.10 **Mrs Brown's Boys** Agnes finds herself facing her busiest Christmas ever, with Trevor stopping over, her grandson Bono staying on Christmas Eve and Dermot's triplets all arriving too. If that wasn't enough to juggle, she decides to take on the task of staging a Nativity play. The first of two festive editions of the comedy, starring Brendan O'Carroll. (C)

10.40 **To be confirmed**
11.25 **BBC News**; Weather. (C)
11.45 **Midnight Mass from Leeds** Cathedral Live service from St Anne's Cathedral in Leeds. (C)

1.05 **FILM: Film TBA 2.35 Weatherview** (C) 2.40 **BBC News** 2.45 **Asian Business Report**. News from the markets. 2.45 **Sport Today**. News and results from around the world. 3.00 **BBC News**. 3.30 **Asia Business Report**. News from the markets. 3.45 **Sport Today**. News and results from around the world. 4.00 **BBC News**. 4.30 **HARDtalk**. Stephen Sackur talks to people making the headlines. 5.00 **BBC News**. 5.30 **World Business Report**. The latest business news, with informed analysis. 5.45 **BBC News**. (C)

12.00 **Comedy Connections** The story behind TV-based sitcoms. Porridge was a chance to discover which actor was originally earmarked for the part of Godber. (C) (R) 12.30 **QI** Stephen Fry hosts a Christmas edition of the quiz, asking Sarah Milligan, Phill Jupitus, Danny Baker and Azeem Davies questions on the theme of jingle bells. (C) (R) 1.00 **An Island Parish** Shepherd David Scott has a difficult decision to make about his pet sheep Pearl. And Rev Gill Nicholls faces up to leaving the island for good. Last in the series. (C) (R) 1.30 **FILM: Film TBA 3.00 Close**

6.05 **Carols from King's** The solo chorister singing the opening verse of Once in Royal David's City from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, marks the beginning of Christmas for millions of people around the world. Carols from King's tells the Christmas story through readings from the King James Bible and poems by Rainer Maria Rilke, William Austin and Laurie Lee. The world-famous King's College Choir, under the direction of Stephen Cleobury, sings carols including Ding Dong Merrily on High, Away in a Manger, The Holly and the Ivy, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, We Three Kings, In the Bleak Midwinter, Silent Night and Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. (C)

7.20 **Dragons' Den Christmas Special** For the first time in the Den opens its doors purely for commerce at Christmas, with nine entrepreneurs representing six businesses descend the stairs to pitch their festive ideas in the hope of securing a cash injection from the five multimillionaires. Alongside normal proceedings, there will be insights into the approach to take during the seasonal trading period as well as the pitfalls that can come with success. There is also a catch up with a few of the entrepreneurs – some who succeeded in gaining the Dragons' support and others who did not – to find out whether they hit it big this year. Evan Davis presents. (C)

8.20 **Open All Hours** Shopkeeping comedy, with Ronnie Barker as the miserly Arkwright, David Jason as his downtrodden nephew and Lynda Baron as Nurse Gladys Emmanuel. (C) (R)

8.50 **Porridge** Fletch discovers fellow inmates at Slade Prison are planning to escape – and decides to hide in the hospital so he cannot be blamed when the tunnel is discovered. Festive edition of the classic comedy from 1975, starring Ronnie Barker and Richard Beckinsale. (C) (R)

9.30 **Ronnie Barker: The Many Faces Of...** (C)

10.30 **The Two Ronnies: The Studio Recordings** A collection of unedited takes from the classic comedy show, featuring both famous and more obscure sketches. (C) (R)

11.00 **Being Ronnie Corbett** Documentary charting the comedian's long career. (C) (R)

1.00 **The Unforgettable Profiles** of famous entertainers. (T) (R) 2.00 **ITV Nightscreen** 3.50 **Pushing Daisies** Anna Friel and Lee Pace star in the long-awaited hit US drama about pie-maker Ned, who can bring people back from the dead just by touching them. Ned sends them the afterlife with just another poke of his finger. He decides to use his power to solve crime, bringing murder victims back to life so they can name their killers – but things get complicated when he resuscitates his childhood sweetheart and decides to let her stay alive, knowing they can never come into physical contact. (T) (R) 4.50 **ITV Nightscreen**

4.45 **The Grinch** (2000) A grumpy creature plots to ruin Christmas and seasonal goodwill for the Whoville town residents. Fantasy comedy, based on Dr Seuss' book, starring Jim Carrey and Taylor Momsen. (T)

6.45 **ITV News and Weather** (T)
7.00 **Emmerdale** Cameron takes drastic steps to deal with his hostage after a chase through the woods, while Priya gives David his Christmas gift, a skiing holiday, but they leave on Boxing Day. (T)

7.30 **Coronation Street** It's going to be a dramatic Christmas for several of Weatherfield's best known couples. (T)

8.00 **You've Been Framed!** Christmas The Harry Hill narrates a festive selection of canoodler calamities and viewers' mobile phone footage, including stumbling Santas, ungrateful children, a dog that uses a Christmas tree as a toilet, and an unexpected shock from some fairy lights. (T) (R)

8.30 **Coronation Street** More Christmas Eve drama from TV's most famous street. (T)

9.00 **The Spice Girls Story: Viva Forever!** A brand new and official, prime-time documentary on the Spice Girls including interviews with five stars themselves, plus their mothers, a host of celebrity pals, and more. It features behind the scenes footage of the infamous press call earlier this year, rehearsals and backstage footage of their performance in the The Olympics Closing Ceremony, and of course lots of sneak peaks of the new Spice Girls musical, Viva Forever, and its development. (T)

10.30 **ITV News and Weather** (T)

10.45 **Christmas Carols on ITV** (T)
11.45 **The Jonathan Ross Show** The star-studded line-up to take you into the early hours of Christmas Day includes Michael McIntyre, Sienna Miller, Sheridan Smith, Charlotte Church, Jamie Oliver, Jonnie Peacock and West Midlands' own Paralympic gold medal-winning star Ellie Simmonds. (T) (R)

12.10 **The Unforgettable Profiles** of famous entertainers. (T) (R) 12.40 **The Inbetweeners** Sitcom about four teenagers growing up in suburbia. (T) (R) 1.10 **The Inbetweeners** Sitcom about four teenagers growing up in suburbia. (T) (R) 1.40 **Rude Tube** Sitcom about four teenagers growing up in suburbia. (T) (R) 2.45 **Deal or No Deal** Reality show following the social activities of a group of people in their twenties, who live in and around the most exclusive postcodes in London. (T) (R) 3.40 **90210** Naomi receives a surprise visit from her sister Jen. (T) 4.20 **Deal or No Deal** Game show, with Noel Edmonds. (T) (R) 5.15 **Countdown** Word game with Alistair McGowan in Dictionary Corner. (T) (R)

12.10 **The Inbetweeners** Will is left home alone. (T) (R) 12.40 **The Inbetweeners** Sitcom about four teenagers growing up in suburbia. (T) (R) 1.10 **The Inbetweeners** Sitcom about four teenagers growing up in suburbia. (T) (R) 1.40 **Rude Tube** Sitcom about four teenagers growing up in suburbia. (T) (R) 2.45 **Deal or No Deal** Reality show following the social activities of a group of people in their twenties, who live in and around the most exclusive postcodes in London. (T) (R) 3.40 **90210** Naomi receives a surprise visit from her sister Jen. (T) 4.20 **Deal or No Deal** Game show, with Noel Edmonds. (T) (R) 5.15 **Countdown** Word game with Alistair McGowan in Dictionary Corner. (T) (R)

6.00 **Hollyoaks** Barney tells Rob about his secret arrangement with Nana McQueen, unaware his admission has been overheard, and Brenda struggles to cope with his father's presence in the village. (T)

6.30 **Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas** Festive spin-off of the animated films. Sid the sloth accidentally ruins one of Manny the mammoth's Christmas traditions, and is worried to discover he may be on Santa Claus's naughty list – so he heads to the North Pole in a bid to redeem himself. (T) (R)

7.00 **The Snowman and the Snowdog** Animated sequel to Raymond Briggs' classic festive tale The Snowman. A boy's snowman and snowdog magically come to life at the stroke of midnight and take him on an adventure to the North Pole, where he and his new companions meet an assortment of colourful characters, including Santa himself, before returning home. (T)

7.30 **The Making of the Snowman and the Snowdog** One of the most popular British animations ever made, The Snowman has become a fixture in the Christmas schedules. Yet the talent behind the phenomenon is reclusive. Now, 30 years after the film adaptation of his children's book, Raymond Briggs provides an insight into his life, talks about his inspiration and reveals why he has finally approved a sequel. The programme also meets the creative team behind the new film, many of whom played a key role in the original, and others from the literary world share their thoughts on why his work is successful. (T)

8.30 **Stephen Fry: Gadget Man Xmas Special** The actor delves into the world of technology. (T)

9.00 **8 Out of 10 Cats** Panel show hosted by Jimmy Carr. (T)

10.00 **Peep Show** Comedy about two misfits with an unhealthy reliance on one another. Robert Webb and David Mitchell star. (T)

10.30 **The Inbetweeners** Carl organises a fashion show that Simon is eager to participate in. Will tries to shake off his embarrassing reputation, while Jay continues to lie about his sexual experiences. (T) (R)

11.05 **The Inbetweeners** Simon tries to impress a girl. (T) (R)
11.35 **The Inbetweeners** The gang visits a university. (T) (R)

7.00 **Rolf's Animal Christmas** Rolf Harris revisits some of the most memorable stories of the year from Rolf's Animal Clinic, a series that saw animals of all shapes and sizes receiving vital and often life-saving treatment. This festive special reveals how some of the patients fared after they returned home to their grateful owners following medical attention at the University of Liverpool's School of Veterinary Science campus at Leahurst in Cheshire. 5 News Update (T)

8.00 **A Right Royal 2012** A look at how the royal family has fared in the past year, with highlights including the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, which was celebrated by millions of people despite the rain. The low points saw the publication of revealing photographs of the Duchess of Cambridge in the foreign press, as well as a UK newspaper printing pictures of Prince Harry playing strip billiards in a hotel in Las Vegas. With contributions by ex-MP Ann Widdecombe, Diana, Princess of Wales's former private secretary Patrick Jephson, pageant master of the jubilee flotilla Adrian Evans, royal correspondent Robert Johnson and social historian Dominic Sandbrook. 5 News at 9 (T)

9.00 **Eddie Stobart's Christmas Cracker** Festive edition of the documentary following the company's truckers as they face one of their busiest times of the year. A hospital in Cambridge awaits the arrival of a huge Christmas tree to raise patients' spirits, while petrol forecourts expect bumper fuel deliveries for those facing long drives home. A town in the north east of England is due a consignment of reindeer for their annual parade and on top of all that, the drivers must hit the right note for the company's charity Yuletide sing. (T)

10.00 **Tommy Cooper's Christmas** A seasonal special from 1973, featuring a generous helping of mirth, mayhem and magic from the comedian, who demonstrates how to cook a duck-egg omelette, plays snooker with a sand wedge and rides an ostrich. Joining Tommy are singers Clodagh Rodgers and Sacha Distel, who perform a medley of festive favourites.

11.05 **The Plank** (1967) Slapstick comedy, starring Eric Sykes and Tommy Cooper.

12.10 **TBA 1.10 SuperCasino** Viewers get the chance to play live casino games, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 4.00 **House Doctor** A Victorian property in Camden, North London. (T) (R) 4.25 **House Doctors** Life-enhancing changes to a home. (T) (R) 4.50 **Great Artists Profile** of Renaissance painter Tiziano Vecellio, known to English-speakers as Titian, who pioneered the use of oils with a radical approach to light, colour and brush strokes. (T) (R) 5.10 **Michaela's Wild Challenge** Michaela Strachan gets groomed by monkeys. (T) (R) 5.35 **Michaela's Wild Challenge** Jamie Crawford is challenged to kiss a poison dart frog. (T) (R)

Late View

CHRISTMAS DAY

BBC1



Jenny Agutter in Call The Midwife, 7.45pm

BBC2



The Choir: A Year with the Military Wives, 9pm

ITV1



Fun for Mrs Patmore in the Downton Christmas special

Channel 4



The Lord of the Rings, the journey begins, 5.35pm

Channel 5



Rolf's Animal Christmas, revisiting the series at 6pm

Early View

6.00 Breakfast Headlines and business news. (C) **9.00 TBA 10.00 Christmas Day Eucharist** Traditional morning service live from St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol. (C) **11.00 FILM: The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (2006)** Christmas fantasy comedy sequel, starring Tim Allen. (C) **12.25 BBC News (C) 12.35 Weather (C) 12.40 FILM: Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (2008)** The escaped zoo animals come across their wild counterparts after their plane crashes in Africa. Animated adventure, with the voices of Ben Stiller, Chris Rock and David Schwimmer. (C) **2.00 Top of the Pops Christmas Special** Fennee Cotton and Reggie Yates present the annual chart countdown. (C) **3.00 The Queen Her Majesty's annual address.** (C) **3.10 FILM: Shrek Forever After (2010)** Premiere. Animated comedy, with the voice of Mike Myers. (C) **4.40 Room on the Broom** Animated adaptation of the children's book about a witch who invites a surprising number of animals to ride on her broom. The voice cast includes Rob Brydon and David Williams. (C) **5.05 BBC News (C) 5.20 Weather (C) 5.30 Downton Who Time Lord** is summoned to Victorian England to thwart an icy menace. (C)

6.00 CBeebies 6.30 The Cow That Almost Missed Christmas Animation retelling the nativity story from the viewpoint of a young cow. (C) **7.00 CBBC 9.00 Attenborough's Egg Hunt** David Attenborough returns to Madagascar 50 years after his first visit. (C) **10.00 Attenborough's Ark: Natural World Special** David Attenborough chooses 10 animals he would most like to save from extinction. (C) **11.00 Carols from King's Music** and readings from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge. (C) **12.15 FILM: On the Town (1949)** Musical, starring Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Munshin. (C) **1.50 FILM: Singin' in the Rain (1952)** A silent-movie star tries to win the heart of an aspiring actress as the dawn of sound changes the film business for ever. Musical comedy, starring Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds. (C) **3.30 La Cenerentola** Andrea Andreani's production of Rossini's opera based on Cinderella, starring Ukrainian soprano Lena Belkina in the lead role and tenor Edgardo Rocha as Don Ramiro. (C) **5.30 The Queen Her Majesty's annual address.** (C) **5.40 Arena: Sister Wendy and the Art of the Gospel** The nun talks about life, faith and art. (C)

6.00 Milkshake! 9.25 TBA 9.30 Once Upon a Time The Evil Queen hires the Huntsman to kill Snow as his Storybrooke counterpart Sheriff Graham starts to remember his alternative life. (T) **10.25 FILM: Gone with the Wind (1939)** A plantation heiress has a tumultuous relationship with a roughish Southern gentleman during the American Civil War. Epic romantic drama, starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable. More than 1,400 actresses were interviewed for the coveted role of Scarlett O'Hara. The one actress whom all of Hollywood felt had the role (including herself) was Paulette Goddard, live-in girlfriend of comedian Charlie Chaplin. When the press leaked the information they were "living in sin", Paulette was quickly dropped from consideration. **2.30 FILM: Trading Christmas (2011)** Premiere. A lonely widow and a frustrated writer agree to swap houses for Christmas, and both find themselves having unexpected romances. Comedy, with Faith Ford and Gil Bellows. (T) **4.15 FILM: The Santa Incident (2010)** Premiere. Santa Claus is marooned in a small town and must prepare for Christmas without the resources of his North Pole workshop. Comedy, starring Greg Gorman and Lone Skye. (T)

Prime Time

6.30 Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly welcome seven former contestants and six Strictly newcomers to the dance floor to compete for the Christmas glitterball trophy, and singer Rod Stewart performs Let It Snow. Leading the line-up are 2008 and 2009 champions Tom Chambers and Chris Hollins, alongside series one winner Natasha Kaprielian, while Kelly Brook, Rachel Stevens, Colin Jackson and Chelsea Healey also dust off their dancing shoes. Entering the ballroom for the first time are JLS singer Jonathan "JB" Gill, former footballer Robbie Muir, comics Bobby Ball and Katy Brand, actress Sheila Hancock, and presenter Helen Skelton. Viewers' favourites Ann Widdecombe and Russell Grant add a little extra yuletide sparkle with a guest appearance. (C)

7.45 Call the Midwife Christmas Special The hit drama of the year returns for a one-off special – and what could be more festive than the nurses finding a newborn baby on the steps of the convent? The discovery prompts the community to rally round, providing food and clothing for the unexpected arrival. But the question remains – who is his mother and why did she leave him there? Jessica Raine, Miranda Hart, Pam Ferris and Jenny Agutter star. (C)

9.00 EastEnders Derek plots to ruin Max's Christmas festivities, and when his plan falls into place, the perfect day turns into a disaster. A fun day at the Vic prompts Roy to tell Alfie a secret. (C)

10.00 The Royle Family A new neighbour's cleavage is one of the many topics of conversation as the couch-potato clan gathers for another fun-filled Christmas Day. This year Barbara has gone overboard with the presents after spending an entire two hours in the pound shop, Joe next door has turned to the lonely hearts column, although his advert leaves a lot to be desired, and Dave has had a flash of entrepreneurial inspiration. Ricky Tomlinson, Sue Johnston, Caroline Aherne and Craig Cash star. (C)

11.00 BBC News All the latest headlines. (C)

11.10 Weather (C)

11.15 To be confirmed

11.55 On Christmas Night Paralympic medal-winner Rachel Morris reads Christmas story. (C)

6.40 50 Years of Bond Cars: A Top Gear Special Richard Hammond celebrates 50 years of James Bond films with a look back at the franchise's vehicles, including the Aston Martin DB5 and the Lotus Esprit. Richard also takes to silver-screen 007s Daniel Craig and Roger Moore, goes behind the scenes on the latest Bond adventure Skyfall, and attempts to turn a Lotus into a fully working submarine car. (C) **7.45 Dad's Army** The vicar holds a Comforts for the Troops Fund bazaar at which Mainwaring finds himself bidding against Pike for a highly prized orange. The private reveals a stubbly streak that costs the thick-skinned captain an arm and a leg. Christmas edition of the classic comedy originally shown in 1976, starring Arthur Lowe and Ian Lavender. Last in the series. (C) **8.15 Blackadder's Christmas Carol** It is Christmas Eve 1850, and the kindly Ebenezer Blackadder spends the festive season being taken advantage of by his relatives. When he is visited by the Spirit of Christmas, he gains an insight into the dastardly deeds of his ancestors. Comic reversal of the classic Dickens tale, starring Rowan Atkinson. (C) **9.00 The Choir: A Year with the Military Wives** In February 2011, Gareth Malone went to Royal Marines Base Chivenor in Devon to set up a choir for the woman whose partners were away on active duty for months at a time. In this film, he goes back to the small chapel where he started the singing group, with key members reflecting on an experience that was meant to culminate in a performance at the Royal Albert Hall – but which actually led to something bigger. (C)

10.00 Q! XL Jingle Bells Extended edition of the comedy panel game, in which the questions are so difficult points are awarded for the answers host Stephen Fry finds most interesting. (C)

10.45 The Sarah Millican Television Programme Xmas 2012 The award-winning comedienne hosts a special Christmas edition of her show, in which the comedienne's stand-up routines inspired by festive TV. (C) **11.15 The Christmas No 1 Story** The battle for the chart-topping festive single has always been hard fought. (C)

6.00 Rolf's Animal Christmas Rolf Harris revisits some of the most memorable stories of the year from Rolf's Animal Clinic, a series that saw animals of all shapes and sizes receiving vital and often life-saving treatment. This festive special reveals how some of the patients fared after they returned home to their grateful owners – following medical attention at the University of Liverpool's School of Veterinary Science campus at Leahurst in Cheshire. **7.00 Eddie Stobart's Christmas Cracker** Festive edition of the documentary following the company's trucks as they face one of their busiest times of the year. A hospital in Cambridge awaits the arrival of a huge Christmas tree to raise patients' spirits, while petrol forecourts expect bumper fuel deliveries for those facing long drives home. A town in the north east of England is due a consignment of reindeer for their annual parade and on Christmas Eve the company's trucks hit the right note for the company's charity Yuletide single. **5 News Update (T)**

8.00 Eddie Stobart: Trucks, Trailers and Tinsel As fierce blizzards grind much of the UK to a halt, the Eddie Stobart drivers struggle to transport 500,000 Christmas trees to garden centres in time for the start of the yuletide season. Meanwhile, a trucker in Wales risks being hijacked to deliver children's toys to a major retailer, and the chilled foods team takes on the massive challenge of shipping six million turkeys to the nation's butchers. **5 News at 9 (T)**

9.00 Eddie Stobart's Christmas Delivery Festive edition of the documentary series of the company's trucks face one of their busiest times of the year. Battling harsh winter conditions, they set out to ensure shops around the country receive their supply of Christmas trees, salt is delivered to councils and supermarket shelves are stocked with plenty of products. **10.00 Greatest Christmas TV Moments** Countdown of 50 festive crackers past and present, including classic soap moments, dramatic endings, sitcom specials, comedy sketches and light entertainment highlights that have made the television set the focus of the holiday season for decades. Expect to see the likes of Morecambe and Wise, EastEnders and Doctor Who.

Late View

12.00 FILM: Blades of Glory (2007) Ice-skating comedy, starring Will Ferrell as part of an all-male ice-dancing couple. (C) **HH 1.35 Weatherview (C) 1.40 BBC News** 1.40 ABC World News with Diane Sawyer. Global news reports. **2.00 BBC News** 2.30 Asia Business Report. News from the markets. **2.45 Sport Today** News and results from around the world. **3.00 BBC News** 3.30 Asia Business Report. News from the markets. **3.45 Sport Today** News and results from around the world. **4.00 BBC News** 4.30 HARDtalk. Stephen Sackur talks to people making the headlines. **5.00 BBC News** 5.30 World Business Report. The latest business news, with informed analysis. **5.45 BBC News** (C)

12.15 TOTP2 Christmas 2012 (C) (R) 1.45 FILM: H 1.30 BBC News 3.30 Asia Business Report. News from the markets. **3.45 Sport Today** News and results from around the world. **4.00 BBC News** 4.30 HARDtalk. Stephen Sackur talks to people making the headlines. **5.00 BBC News** 5.30 World Business Report. The latest business news, with informed analysis. **5.45 BBC News** (C)

1.30 Christmas Carols on ITV (T) (R) 2.30 ITV Newsline 3.30 Pushing Daisies Anna Friel and Lee Pace star in the long-awaited hit US drama about pie-maker Ned, who can bring people back from the dead just by touching them, then send them to the afterlife with just another poke of his finger. He decides to use his power to solve crime, bringing murder victims back to life so they can name their killers – but things get complicated when he rescues his childhood sweetheart and decides to let her stay alive, knowing they can never come into physical contact. (T) **(R) 4.30 ITV Nightscreen**

1.30 FILM: Airplane! (1980) Spoof disaster movie, starring Robert Hays. (T) **HHH 3.00 David Blaine: What is Magic?** The illusionist performs amazing feats from America, impressing actor Orlando Bloom in New York, and seemingly catching a bullet in his mouth first from a 22-calibre gun. (T) **3.30 KOTV Boxing Weekly** Henry Lundy v Raymond Beltran. Action from the NABF Lightweight title bout at the Resorts Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City. **3.55 International Volleyball** A look back at the 2012 World League season, focusing on the teams aiming to make it through to the finals in Bulgaria. (T) **4.50 Extreme Sailing Series** The conclusion of the 2011 season. (T)

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CHRISTMAS TV BOXING DAY

BBC1	BBC2	ITV1	Channel 4	Channel 5
Mia Wasikowska stars in Alice in Wonderland, 7.20pm 6.00 Breakfast Headlines and business news. (C) 9.00 TBA 10.35 FILM: Film TBA 12.10 Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers Everyday cooking advice with the food writer. (C) (R) 12.40 BBC News (C) 12.55 Regional News: Weather. (C) 1.00 Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out The duo embark on their first adventure, taking a trip to the moon when their cheese supplies run out. Baffa-winning animation, with the voice of Peter Sallis. (C) (R) 1.25 FILM: Bolt (2008) The canine star of a TV show, who believes his on-screen adventures are real, tries to find his way home. Animated adventure, with the voices of John Travolta and Miley Cyrus. (C) 2.50 FILM: Enchanted (2007) A fairy-tale princess is magically transported from her cartoon world to modern-day New York. Part-animated, fantasy comedy, starring out Amy Adams, James Marsden and Susan Sarandon. (C) 4.30 FILM: How to Train Your Dragon (2010) Premiere. A Viking boy longs to become a dragon slayer, but ends up befriending one of the giant flying lizards. Animated comedy, with the voices of Jay Baruchel and Gerard Butler. (C)	Sienna Miller is The Girl, based on the Tippi Hedren story 7.00 CBeebies 9.00 The Great Rift: Africa's Wild Heart Exploring Africa's Great Rift Valley, which stretches for 3,000 miles from the Red Sea to the mouth of the Zambezi river and contains the world's widest array of wildlife. (C) (R) 10.00 Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild David Attenborough looks back over his film-making career. (C) (R) 11.00 Darcey Bussell Dances Hollywood The former Royal Ballet star celebrates classic dance musicals. (C) (R) 12.30 John Wilson on Broadway Uncut Extended version of the BBC Proms performance of Broadway classics. (C) 2.40 FILM: An American in Paris (1951) A struggling American painter living in Paris is torn between two women — his wealthy patroness and an engaged Frenchwoman. Oscar-winning musical, with Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron. (C) 4.30 Final Score A round-up of this afternoon's results from the Premier League, Football League and Scotland. (C) 5.30 FILM: Miss Potter (2006) Victorian writer and illustrator Beatrix Potter falls in love while trying to find a publisher for her work. Biographical period drama, starring Renée Zellweger and Ewan McGregor. (C)	That Dog Can Dance... Ashley and Pudsey in action 5.30 ITV Morning News (T) 6.00 CITV (T) 9.25 FILM: The Railway Children (1970) Three Edwardian children are forced to move from London to rural Yorkshire after their father is wrongly imprisoned. Period family drama, with Jenny Agutter and Bernard Cribbins. (T) 11.25 Dinner Date Matchmaking show in which contestants choose three blind dates based entirely on menus created by five potential partners. (T) 12.20 ITV News and Weather (T) 12.30 FILM: Land of the Lost (2009) An eccentric scientist and his two friends are transported into another dimension inhabited by dinosaurs. Comedy adventure, starring Will Ferrell, Anna Friel and Danny McBride. (T) 1.55 Local News and Weather (T) 2.25 The Spice Girls Story: Viva Forever! (T) (R) 3.55 FILM: Toy Story 2 (1999) Cowboy Woody is stolen by an unscrupulous toy collector, who knows he is worth a fortune as a collectible, prompting fearless Space Ranger Buzz Lightyear to lead a daring across-town mission to rescue him. However, Woody is tempted to spend his life languishing in the safety of a museum rather than face the prospect of his owner growing up. Animated sequel, featuring the voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack and Kelsey Grammer. (T) 3.59 Local Weather (T) 5.45 ITV News and Weather (T)	James Howson stars in the classic Wuthering Heights 6.10 The Hoobs Groove goes to a fancy-dress party. (T) (R) 6.35 The Hoobs Groove feels down in the dumps. (T) (R) 7.00 Will & Grace Jack is nominated for an award. (T) (R) 7.30 According to Jim Dana is fixed up with a date. (T) (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond Part two of two. Robert falls in love. (T) (R) 8.30 The Morning Line Racing preview. (T) 9.30 The Big Bang Theory Howard tells his mother he is engaged to Bernadette. (T) (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory Bernadette receives her PhD. (T) (R) 10.30 The Simpsons Moe becomes a successful poet with Lisa's help, and wins acclaim from a group of highbrow authors — but disappoints her by claiming all the credit for himself. (T) (R) 11.00 The Simpsons Homer is fired from the power plant and secures a job as an ice-cream man, but gets so wrapped up in his new career that he puts his marriage in jeopardy. (T) (R) 11.30 FILM: Horton Hears a Who! (2008) Animated comedy, featuring the voice of Jim Carrey. (T) 11.55 Channel 4 Racing (T) 3.30 Deal or No Deal's Big Christmas Dinner Noel Edmonds hosts a seasonal edition of the game show. (T) 4.30 FILM: Edward Scissorhands (1990) Tim Burton's fantasy, starring Johnny Depp. (T)	Dynamo features in TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks 6.00 Milkshake! 9.45 TBA 9.50 Dallas JR schemes to cut John Ross out of the Southfork deal by undermining one of his allies, while a blackmail threat leaves Rebecca facing a dilemma. (T) (R) 10.45 Once Upon a Time Emma's hopes of becoming sheriff are dashed when Mayor Regina appoints Sidney Glass, but then she receives an unexpected offer of help from Mr Gold. (T) (R) 11.40 FILM: The Greatest Story Ever Told (1965) The story of the life of Jesus, from His birth to eventual betrayal by disciple Judas Iscariot and His death by crucifixion. Biblical drama, with Max von Sydow and David McCallum. 4.10 FILM: Will You Merry Me? (2008) Premiere. A Christian man and his Jewish fiancée face a tense joint Christmas and Hanukkah when their families meet for the first time. Comedy, with Tommy Liotas and Vikki Kresney. (T)
6.00 Mr Stink Family comedy based on the children's novel by David Walliams. Twelve-year-old Chloe has a lonely existence — her mother is too busy with her political ambitions to take any interest in her daughter, her hen-pecked dad is hiding a secret of his own and she cannot hope to compete with her 'perfect' younger sister — to say nothing of the nasty girls who make her school life a misery. So when she meets a tramp in need of somewhere to stay, she invites him to hide out in her family's garden shed — but it soon turns out there is more to her smelly guest than meets the eye. Downton Abbey's Hugh Bonville stars, with Sheridan Smith, Johnny Vegas and Isabella Blake-Thomas, with an appearance from Britain's Got Talent winner Pudsey the Dog. (C) 7.00 BBC News: Weather. (C) 7.15 Midlands Today: Weather. (C) 7.20 Alice in Wonderland (2010) Premiere. A 19-year-old Alice returns to the magical land, having forgotten her previous adventures. She finds the tyrannical Red Queen has begun a reign of terror that can only be ended by slaying the monstrous Jabberwocky — a task she is seemingly destined to perform. Tim Burton's fantasy adventure, based on Lewis Carroll's novel, starring Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter and Anne Hathaway. (C) 9.00 EastEnders Derek's death has left a dark cloud over the Brannings, with Max insisting they check their stories before the police arrive. The atmosphere is strained between Ali and Roxy. (C) 9.30 Miranda New series. The comedy series returns with a festive special that sees Penny threatening to cancel the joke-shop owner's Christmas if she can't manage to get her life in order. (C) 10.00 Mrs Brown's Boys Having cast herself in the role of the Virgin Mary Agnes vows to make her retelling of the Nativity at the community centre unforgettable. (C) 10.30 BBC News: Weather. (C) 10.50 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws More fortunes are made. (C) 11.00 Match of the Day Including highlights of Manchester United v Newcastle United. (C)	7.00 Are You Being Served? A classic British comedy still a hot today set in a department store. Young Mr Grace instructs everyone to wear fancy dress in the run-up to Christmas, turning the departments into fairy-tale grottos. Festive edition of the department store comedy from 1975. With a top rate cast including Harold Bennett, John Inman, Wendy Richard, Frank Thornton and Mollie Sugden. (C) (R) 7.30 Morecambe & Wise: Song & Dance Sketches More crazy clowning from the oh so talented Eric and Ernie One to set the recorder for. (C) (R) 8.30 Blackpool: Big Night Out Drama and true life social stories from the party resort of the north west coast. (C) 9.30 The Girl Toby Jones and Sienna Miller star in this one-off drama based on the story of director Alfred Hitchcock's obsession with Tippi Hedren, leading lady of his 1963 thriller <i>The Birds</i>. The film-maker was at the height of his fame when he chose the Scandinavian fashion model to star in his latest thriller, sculpting her into the perfect blonde of his imagination. But before long, he became determined to win her love, a pursuit that would end in failure. Media Sturton and Penelope Wilton co-star. (C) 11.00 Rebecca (1940) Romantic drama based on the novel by Daphne Du Maurier, with excellent performances by Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine. When a naive young woman marries a rich widower and settles into his gigantic mansion, she finds the memory of the first wife maintaining a grip on her husband and the servants and especially the sinister housekeeper. Directed by the legendary master of suspense, Alfred Hitchcock, this deservedly won two Oscars. (b/w) (C) 1.05 Paul Merton Looks at Alfred Hitchcock The comedian analyses Hitchcock's classic British films, examining how those moody features — including <i>The Lodger</i> and <i>Blackmail</i> — provided the foundations for his rise to prominence as Hollywood's 'master of suspense'. Featuring rare archive footage of the film-maker and interviews with those who worked with him. (C) (R) 2.05 TBA 3.35 Close	6.00 Central Tonight, followed by Weather. (T) 6.00 All Star Family Fortunes Game show, hosted by Vernon Kay. Well-known faces team up with their relatives and try to guess the answers to surveys of 100 people in a bid to reach the final round, in which they can win up to £30,000 for a charity of their choice. (T) 7.00 Emmerdale Long-running soap set amid the rolling scenery of the Yorkshire Dales. (T) 7.30 Coronation Street Weatherfield's families digress the fallout from another eventful Christmas Day. (T) 8.00 That Dog Can Dance! Simon Cowell has always said he wanted a dancing dog act to win Britain's Got Talent, and this year it happened, with Ashleigh Butler and her pooch Pudsey triumphing in the competition. Now, he's bringing this one-off entertainment show to ITV1, in which five twinkle-toed contestants and their talented pets hope to impress Ashleigh and celebrity co-judges Sharon Osbourne and Bill Bailey. The hopefuls are battling for the chance to perform at Crufts 2013. Christine Bleakley hosts. (T) 9.00 Dale's Great Getaway A fun-filled game show, hosted by Dale Winton, in which three families compete in a series of bonkers challenges from around the globe for the chance to win three very different prizes. (T) 10.00 ITV News at Ten and Weather (T) 10.15 The Holiday (2006) Two single women living on opposite sides of the Atlantic agree to exchange houses over the Christmas holidays. In their new surroundings, both women unexpectedly encounter prospective partners, but as the house swap draws to a close, difficult decisions have to be made about their blossoming relationships. Romantic comedy, starring Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jack Black, Jude Law and Eli Wallach. (T) HH 10.30 Local News and Weather (T) 12.45 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Chris Tarrant invites another line-up of contestants to answer questions that could change their lives — with lifelines Ask the Audience, Phone a Friend and 50-50 available to them if they get stuck. (T) (R) 1.45 FILM: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) Action comedy, starring Clint Eastwood. (T) HH 1.50 ITV News Text-based information service.	6.30 Hollyoaks More from the Cheshire-based soap. Jacqui learns the full extent of Rhys's infidelity. Darren and Nancy struggle with their parenting woes. Ned Paul Browning plots to get Mercedes back in favour with the McQueens. (T) 7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather. (T) 7.05 4thought.vt Short films in which members of the public from all walks of spiritual life shed their thoughts on religious and ethical issues, and reflect on events that have tested their beliefs. (T) 7.10 Lord of the Rings: Two Towers Intro Setting up the night's big movie, the cast and crew talk about Peter Jackson's mammoth undertaking to adapt Tolkien's famous works. (T) 7.15 The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) Frodo and Sam continue their quest to destroy the all-powerful ring, bringing them face to face with the magical artefact's twisted former owner Gollum. Meanwhile, their allies prepare to make a desperate last stand against the vast armies of the corrupted wizard Saruman, who has declared war on a neighbouring kingdom. Part two of Peter Jackson's fantasy adventure trilogy, starring Elijah Wood, Sean Astin, Viggo Mortensen, Ian McKellen, Billy Boyd, Dominic Monaghan, Andy Serkis and Christopher Lee. (T) 10.45 Wuthering Heights (2011) Another remake of the Emily Bronte novel. Premiere. A Yorkshire hill farmer takes pity on a homeless boy, and brings him back to his remote estate on the moors. The new arrival and the farmer's daughter develop an obsessive bond as they grow up, but he is ultimately cast out by his brother. He returns years later, seeking to be reunited with his lost love and to avenge himself on her family. An innovative 21st century take on the classic story, starring James Howson and Kaya Scodelario. (T)	6.00 Rolf's Animal Clinic Documentary following the work of staff at the University of Liverpool's School of Veterinary Science's campus at Leahurst in Cheshire. Presented by Rolf Harris. 7.00 Eddie Stobart: Trucks, Trailers and Tinsel As fierce blizzards grind much of the UK to a halt, the Eddie Stobart drivers struggle to transport 500,000 Christmas trees to garden centres in time for the start of the yuletide season. Meanwhile, a trucker in Wales risks being hijacked to deliver children's toys to a major retailer, and the chilled foods team takes on the massive challenge of shipping six million turkeys to the nation's butchers. (R) 5 News Update (T) 8.00 World's Biggest Pets Documentary about large animals romping through homes and neighbourhoods, including the world's tallest dog Giant George — who is the height of two average golden retrievers and weighs as much as 35 Yorkshire terriers. A man from Texas has devoted his life to his pet bison, which is the same size as a small family car, and a reptile fanatic from Newcastle shows off her Burmese python, which is capable of swallowing a human whole. 5 News at 9 (T) 9.00 TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks TV illusionists have been saving ladies in half, catching bullets between their teeth, reading minds and performing feats of escapology for decades. Channel 5 counts down the best, including the astonishing set-pieces of Penn and Teller, the mind-bending of Derren Brown and the street magic of David Blaine. It features spectacular illusions, such as making the Statue of Liberty disappear, intimate card tricks and the lighter side of the business, thanks to the inclusion of comedy great Tommy Cooper. Paul Daniels and new kid on the block Dynamo also appear in this magic compendium, with contributions from Joe Pasquale, Dick and Dom, and Stephen Mulhern. (R) 11.50 To be confirmed 12.50 SuperCasino Viewers get the chance to take their live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 4.00 House Doctor Kitchens and dining rooms. (T) (R) 4.25 HouseBusters Life-enhancing changes to a home. (T) (R) 4.50 Great Artists The life of El Greco, one of the most distinctive painters of the 16th century, whose work paved the way for the baroque and provided the inspiration for 20th-century expressionism. (T) (R) 5.10 Michael's Wild Challenge Elton Strachan tries to find out the age of an elephant. (T) (R)
12.30 FILM: Point Break (1991) Thriller, with Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze. (C) HH 2.30 Weatherview (C) 2.35 BBC News 2.35 Asia Business Report. News from around the world. 3.00 BBC News. 3.30 Asia Business Report. News from the markets. 3.45 Sport Today. News and results from around the world. 4.00 BBC News. 4.30 HARDtalk. Stephen Sackur talks to people making the headlines. 5.00 BBC News. 5.30 World Business Report. The latest business news, with informed analysis. 5.45 BBC News. (C)	1.05 Paul Merton Looks at Alfred Hitchcock The comedian analyses Hitchcock's classic British films, examining how those moody features — including <i>The Lodger</i> and <i>Blackmail</i> — provided the foundations for his rise to prominence as Hollywood's 'master of suspense'. Featuring rare archive footage of the film-maker and interviews with those who worked with him. (C) (R) 2.05 TBA 3.35 Close	12.45 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Chris Tarrant invites another line-up of contestants to answer questions that could change their lives — with lifelines Ask the Audience, Phone a Friend and 50-50 available to them if they get stuck. (T) (R) 1.45 FILM: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) Action comedy, starring Clint Eastwood. (T) HH 1.50 ITV News Text-based information service.	12.45 Alan Carr: Chatty Man Christmas Special With MCfly. (T) 1.45 FILM: Airplane II: The Sequel (1982) Disaster movie spoof sequel, with Robert Hays. (T) HH 3.25 The Good Wife The team defends a girl accused of murdering a summer camp five years previously, after the discovery that DNA evidence was mishandled by the crime lab. Matthew Perry guest stars. (T) 4.00 90210 Adriana takes Dixon to hospital after he collapses. (T) 4.40 Extreme Sailing Series Action from the international series. (T) 5.10 Deal or No Deal Another contestant hopes to win big money by guessing the value of numbered boxes — while the mysterious banker tries to make a deal. Noel Edmonds presents. (T) (R)	12.50 SuperCasino Viewers get the chance to take their live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 4.00 House Doctor Kitchens and dining rooms. (T) (R) 4.25 HouseBusters Life-enhancing changes to a home. (T) (R) 4.50 Great Artists The life of El Greco, one of the most distinctive painters of the 16th century, whose work paved the way for the baroque and provided the inspiration for 20th-century expressionism. (T) (R) 5.10 Michael's Wild Challenge Elton Strachan tries to find out the age of an elephant. (T) (R)

Early View

Prime Time

Late View

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Top guide for Dudley, Halesowen, Sedgley, Kidderminster, Stourbridge



A bathroom has a shaped bath, shower, screen, wash basin and WC

Extended home is on the market



This extended and improved semi-detached is available in Sedgley through Wakeman

PRICED to sell at offers over £175,000, this extended and improved traditionally styled semi-detached house is in Dumbleberry Avenue, Sedgley.

Conveniently situated for Sedgley centre and all its amenities, the property has uPVC double glazing, gas central heating and cavity wall insulation, and is described as being deceptively spacious. On the ground floor the

lounge, 13ft by 11ft 3in, has a feature fireplace with electric fire, while the rear sitting room is 10ft 11in by 10ft 10in with a patio window into a conservatory which is 10ft 11in by 7ft 12in.

Integrated

The kitchen, 14ft 4in by 6ft 8in, has base and wall cupboards, work surfaces, gas oven and hob with extractor hood over, integrated fridge and dishwasher and breakfast bar.

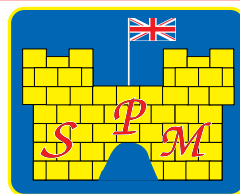
On the first floor are three bedrooms, one with a shower area includ-

ing corner cubicle, low-level WC and pedestal wash hand basin, and a bathroom with P-shaped bath with shower over and screen, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

Outside a garage has plumbing for an automatic washing machine, with the property approached via a block paved driveway and parking area.

There are gardens to the front and rear incorporating decking, paving, shrubs and timber store shed.

For further details contact Wakeman on 01902 885894.



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Sedgley
North One Mews



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- ORP

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- Rear garden and ORP
- Alarmed

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Every film buff's dream – the one-off Juke can only be won through the Nissan competition

Holy Nissan Batman! Win a Dark Knight Juke Nismo

A BATMAN-inspired one-off Nissan Juke is to be offered as a prize to one lucky competition winner.

Based on the 2013 Juke Nismo, The Dark Knight Rises Juke Nismo is a film lover's dream come true, with matt black paint reminiscent of Batman's 'Tumbler' and special 'bat' detailing, including bat signal projects.

The special Juke Nismo was designed by Nissan Design Europe in London's Paddington to celebrate

the company's relationship with Warner Bros – and, of course, the DVD release of The Dark Knight Rises.

Under the skin, the car uses the same 197bhp turbocharged 1.6-litre engine as the standard Juke Nismo, which is already a range-topping model.

A six-speed manual gearbox is the way Batman would want it if he was looking for a (non-bulletproof) road car, while a 0-62mph time of 7.8 seconds is enough to keep most things in its rear-view mirror.

A Nismo body kit, uprated suspension and a sleeker 'shark fin' antenna replace the standard items. Dual Nismo and aluminium bat badges appear on the front grille and tailgate, kick plates and the suede sports seats, the latter of which are reflective.

Black 18in alloy wheels have red detailing, too, but perhaps the best bit of detailing is that the puddle lamps mounted in the undersides of the door mirrors project the superhero's bat symbol down on to the ground beside the car, while the

same signal is projected on to the head lining inside the car thanks to an interior uplighter.

Sadly The Dark Knight Rises Juke Nismo won't be appearing in any dealership, and it won't even be sold to the highest bidder.

Anyone can win it by entering a competition at www.builttothrill.co.uk with entries accepted until the end of February.

Meanwhile, the Juke Nismo is set to arrive in showrooms in March, with order books opening in January.

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Acceptance fee	£125.00*
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Option to purchase fee	£60.00**
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Bashley 0 Stourbridge 1

SEAN EVANS' deflected shot was enough for Stourbridge's deserved first win at Bashley.

Stourbridge, playing up the slope in the first half, had a chance on nine minutes as Luke Benbow slipped the ball to Ben Billingham. His shot was blocked by Bashley keeper Stuart Moore's leg.

Soon after, defender Elliot Wheeler prevented Glassboys' Sean Evans getting to Drew Canavan's cross.

In the 35th minute of the Evo-Stik Southern Premier game Gavin Hurren played the ball forward, Benbow got the better of Ian Richardson but blazed off-target.

Paul McCone was dispossessed outside the Glassboys' box two minutes later.

Wheeler fed Mark Gamble to deliver a deep cross. Ian Oliver's header hit the bar.

Gary Hackett's men used the slope after the restart to hold the ascendancy for good spells but it took time for their dominance to pay off.

In the 51st minute Evans, Billingham and Benbow combined with Moore saving at Evans' feet after a Benbow pass.

Hooked

A minute later Benbow hooked the ball for Billingham to cut in from the byline for a left-foot shot heading wide. Benbow got his head to it but the ball hit the post.

Moments later Benbow hit the post with a shot on the turn. In the 57th minute a strong run forward by Bashley's Wheeler ended as he hit his shot wide.

In the 72nd minute Evans linked with Billingham, who slipped a reverse pass to overlapping Evans.

His shot took a deflection off Tim Stephenson to leave Moore wrong-footed as the ball flew in at his near post.

Nathan Bennett went close to making it two on 79 minutes with a header from Geddes' left-wing free-kick that was creeping in before Moore clawed the ball away.

Stourbridge had a chance clinch it as a Geddes header put Benbow clear, but he side-footed wide of the post.

In stoppage time a 20-yard Stoke drive took a deflection to beat Solly, but the ball flew wide.

From the corner Charlie Knight's header through a mass of bodies appeared to hit the flailing arm of Osborne on the line but the referee turned down penalty appeals before blowing for full-time seconds later.

Robins return for revenge over 8-0 loss

Shifnal Town 0 Dudley Town 3

DUDLEY TOWN eased to their sixth victory in the last seven West Midlands Premier games.

Dudley were on the wrong end of an 8-0 thumping at Shifnal last season but this performance was at the other end of the spectrum.

The Robins disposed of Bartley Green 5-1 seven days earlier and began their latest match where they left off the previous one.

Inside two minutes a Danny Ludlow corner was knocked on by Grant Joshua and Ross Love headed into the roof of Chris Worrall's net.

The Black Country visitors dom-

inated proceedings and were unlucky on several occasions not to extend their lead.

Geoff Hill came close twice, probably needing to do better on 30 minutes as he dragged a shot across the face of goal.

Ludlow fired in a powerful free-kick that only just cleared the Shifnal crossbar.

Despite their dominance Dudley had to wait until the 38th minute to deservedly extend their lead.

A beautiful curved pass from Joshua deceived the Shropshire

club's defence, allowing Dreniz Bala plenty of space to round Worrall and tap into the empty net.

There was one small scare for Dudley just before half-time when keeper Aaron O'Malley landed awkwardly in claiming a Shifnal corner.

Having recovered, this was the former Bradford City shot-stopper's only real action of what was a commanding first-half display from the Robins.

Dudley came out after half-time hungry to extend the advantage

and came close on 52 minutes when Brett McGilligan fired a shot just over.

The hosts then made changes which dragged them back into the game.

Dan Beddowes replaced Sean Powell, and it was the substitute who forced a fine save from the increasingly impressive O'Malley.

But Shifnal could not find a killer touch and soon the Robins were back in control.

Dudley almost increased their lead when a fearsome McGilligan shot went just over, while a fine run from debutant substitute Tom

Gadd fed in Hill who was unlucky when his powerful strike was well blocked by Worrall.

They got their third in slightly controversial circumstances.

A huge appeal for offside was rejected by referee Scott Simpson and it allowed an unchallenged run in on goal for Bala, who again rounded Worrall and tapped home for his second of the afternoon.

Shifnal Town: Worrall, Evans, Dumbrell, L. Jones (Ellis), J. Jones, Davies, Knowles, Powell (Beddowes), Reynolds, McAuley, Coney. **Subs not used:** Love, Russell, Gardener.

Dudley Town: O'Malley, Edmunds, Watkins, Love, Perry, Gardner (Gadd), Joshua, McGilligan, Hill, Bala, Ludlow. **Subs not used:** Whitley, Taylor.

Fair draw as United see lead go twice

Causeway United 2 Kirby Muxloe 2

A DRAW was probably a fair result in a Midland Alliance game with a scrappy first half but entertaining second.

The main first half incident was a 26th minute goal for the Stourbridge-based side as Scott Stevenson got the ball in space and took it around the advancing Kirby goalkeeper, before squaring for Stuart How to volley in.

How's goal made up for two earlier chances the striker fluffed. For the mid-table visitors, Stuart Verrall should have equalised just after the opening goal but put his shot wide.

Volley

That was the Leicester-shire side's only real chance of the half but they woke up in the second period.

Aaron Preston put a shot wide before Karl Wilson crossed for Verrall to acrobatically volley home on 67 minutes.

Two minutes later, Craig Gregg did the same from an Adam Meacham cross to regain the lead.

On 76 minutes, though, the visitors earned a point when a free-kick was headed on by Verrall for Brett Darby to score from close range.

Causeway, sitting 16th in the table, host Alvechurch in their next league fixture on Saturday.

Waterlogged pitches saw several Alliance fixtures postponed at the weekend.

Among the casualties were Gornal Athletic at home to Loughborough University, Tividale at home to Boldmere St Michaels, Tipton away to Heath Hayes and Stourport Swifts' visit to Ellesmere Rangers.

Prizefighter is back in the city

PRIZEFIGHTER returns to Wolverhampton Civic Hall next month – a day after two boxing title fights in Walsall.

Matchroom Boxing had an eight-man light-welter tournament at the Civic in February. Welterweights fight on Saturday, January 19.

Confirmed is Birmingham's Nasser Al Harbi and prospects Dale Evans, Glenn Foot and Chad Gaynor. The night before, Rowley Regis' Jason Welborn challenges British welterweight champion Frankie Gavin at Walsall Town Hall while Walsall's Martin Gethin goes for the vacant British lightweight title.

Lauren takes national title in first ABA fight

LAUREN JOHNSON has taken a female ABA national title to Walsall Wood Amateur Boxing Club with a stunning opening-round stoppage – in her first competitive fight.

The Wolverhampton fighter made it to Sunday's final without a fight through a series of byes at 75kg in Class C, for girls who have had up to five bouts.

The 26-year-old painter and decorator made the short journey to Cannock High School to face the undefeated Natalie McGaucin, of High Wycombe ABC.

She was blown out of the water by a damaging series of assaults from the opening bell.

McGaucin tried to trade and came off worse as her exposed chin was punished time and again, forcing an early standing count.

She was allowed to continue but failed to cover up and was pummelled again, with the referee stepping in to call an end to the fight.

Victory inside the first minute was a superb result for the novice combatant, who only took up the sport earlier this year.

Results, Saturday, Class 1: Millie O'Neill (Hull Saints) beat Cody Byrnes (Heart of Portsmouth) points, Shauna Taylor (Hutton Town) bt Esme Taylor (Weston-super-Mare) pts, Courtney Swanton (Phoenix Fire) lost to Ivy-Jane Smith (Oakmead) ref stopped contest, Millicent Hansen (Grimsby) bt Shanay Bennett (Ted Harris) pts.

Class 2: Chloe Litwin (Turners BA) lost to Chloe Gaynor (Faversham) pts, Ebony Jones (Heart of Portsmouth) bt Emma Dolan (Attleborough) pts, Abbie Bates (Burslem) lost to Niamh McGuckin (Berrinsfield) pts, Chloe Le Page (Weymouth) bt Bella Murphy (Sturminster Newton) rsc, Shona Whitwell (St Ives) bt Delcie Boyle (Brentwood Youth) pts.

Class 3: Jade Clayton (Ernie Owers) bt Sharnelle Gaynor (Faversham) pts, Courtney Hughes (Macclesfield) lost to Maria Markowska (Hornchurch) pts, Elizabeth Dillon (Moss Side Fire Station) lost to Shai-Anne McGhee (South Nantmon) pts, Lauren Hall

by Craig Birch

(Exhall) lost to Adelaide Baker (Downend) pts.

Class 4: Samantha Brown (Kingston) lost to Olivia Orchard (Launceston) pts, Sophie Colbourne (North Mersey) bt Beth Bowden (Gloves) pts.

Class 5: Jenna O'Reilly (Body Shots) bt Merlene George (Weston-super-Mare) rsc, Autumn Goodwin (Pegasus) lost to Popi Burton (SYD Ringside) pts, Paige Murney (Leicester Unity) bt Charlie Southern (Portsmouth) pts.

Class 6: Kane Artingstall (Macclesfield) bt Kimberley Rowes (Tavern) pts.

Sunday, Class C: Hannah Latoner (Basingstoke) bt Jade Phipps (Wolvryn Garden City) pts, Siobhan Haynes (Army) lost to Deborah Tyrrell (Hooks) pts, Charlene Milligan (Halifax Police) lost to Katy Luscombe (Cambridge and Redruth) rsc, Nicola Hunt (Army) bt Emma Morris (Five Star) pts, Leigh Helliwell (Hoyle Mill) lost to Cherelle Brown (Sington) rsc, Nikita Sivera (Army) bt Victoria Morgan (Dudley Lions) pts, Lauren Johnson (Walsall Wood) bt Natalie McGaucin (High Wycombe) rsc, Shellie Oliver (Cheshunt) lost to Claire Horgan (Police BA) retired.

Class B: Tracey Ling (Army) bt Vanessa Brown (St Austell) pts, Chantelle Johal (Merlin Youth) bt Amy O'Kane (Paddy John's) pts, Sarah Dunne (Bury) bt Louise Orton (St Mary's) pts, Nina Bradley (Boston) bt Joanne Barrett (Heart of Portsmouth) rsc, Gemma Smith (Derby City) lost to Viviana Tuccillo (Watford) pts, Stacey Copeland (Bredbury Stockport) bt Pula Thapar (Berrinsfield) rsc.

Class A: Lisa Whiteside (Larches and Savick) bt Valerian Spicer (Chadwell St Mary's) pts, Alana Murphy (Army) bt Ruth Raper (Lynn) rsc.



Lauren Johnson, left, exchanges shots with Natalie McGaucin in the ABA women's final at Cannock



Johnson soaks up the applause after her title triumph



A happy Johnson displays the victor's spoils

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SPORT

Champion
All the action from
ABA triumph
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Robins' revenge
Town put 8-0 loss behind
them with super victory
Page 39

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Hearsey hits five in Sports goal glut

Dudley Sports 8 Pegasus 0
DUDLEY SPORTS hit eight goals with a pulsating performance against Pegasus. Sports ran riot in the first half of the West Midlands Premier game, hitting six goals as Pegasus had no answer to the home side's fast-flowing attacking play.

On five minutes Luke Williams curled a beauty into the top corner from 25 yards.

Olly Butler made it two in the 15th minute, finishing from eight yards after a Matt Hearsey cross.

Then it became the Hearsey show as he turned the Pegasus defence inside out while helping himself to the next four goals.

All were similar as he outpaced the defenders before finishing crisply. Sports started the second half as they finished the first – on the attack – and the seventh goal soon arrived, with Hearsey running from the halfway line before hammering the ball past the advancing goalkeeper.

Butler completed the scoring when he netted from the edge of the box after good work from Mark Gore.

Results: Bilbrook South U9 10 Dudley Sports East U9 0, Dudley Sports West U10 2 (Connor Hughes 2) Bilbrook North U10 2, Dudley Sports Dynamos U14 2 (Liam Cullen, George Taylor) Dudley Juniors U14 1, Evesham U11 Girls 1 Dudley Sports U11 Girls 10 (Kirsty Hampton 3, Katie Smith 3, Hannah Fellows 2, Kelly Nicklin 2), Santiago Ladies 3 Dudley Sports Ladies 1 (Chole Williams).

Hard work in 52-5 victory

STOURBRIDGE SAXONS coach Mike Umaga says they made hard work of a 52-5 victory over Westoe.

"We made hard work of it, though we'd secured the bonus point by half-time and kept our shape and ambition as conditions deteriorated," he said as Stourbridge head National Two League North with bonus-point victories in all league games.

"It's nice to be halfway through the season with maximum league points and a full squad available," said Umaga. "I'm particularly pleased with way the younger players like Ed are learning from the senior guys in the squad – they have all made an impact when they've played."

"Dudley this week will be a tough place to go though, they'll be looking to turn us over so there will be no taking our foot off the gas."

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World debut comes to swift end

BRIERLEY HILL'S Mark Jones saw his debut in the PDC world darts championship come to an abrupt end with a first-round defeat to Brendan Dolan, **writes Craig Birch.**

Playing on television for only the second time, Jones lost 3-0 to the Northern Irishman at the Alexandra Palace in London.

Dolan dropped only one leg over the three sets and appeared to show no ill-effects following a sickness bug that laid him low through the previous week.

Jones hit a 180 on the way but Dolan

Darts

hit four maximums of his own. Jones' solitary success came when he took the first leg of the second set, going out on double eight.

But Dolan battled back to secure victory by winning the next six legs and sealed the win with an impressive 120 finish to secure his passage.

Dolan now tackles Raymond van Barneveld in the second round of the tournament.

Wolverhampton's Wayne Jones was also dumped out at the first hurdle

when he suffered defeat at the hands of Jerry Hendriks.

Jones lost 3-0 to Hendriks, who was playing in the competition for the first time, at the Alexandra Palace in London, on Saturday afternoon.

Black Country followers watched in dismay on Sky Sports as 'the Wanderer' was eliminated by losing all three sets 3-2 to the Dutch newcomer.

Hendriks battled back from 2-1 down in the last set to secure victory in style with finishes of 116 and 156. He plays Phil Taylor in the second round tomorrow.



Mark Jones goes out to Brendan Dolan in round one
Picture: Lawrence Lustig/PDC

New-look Heathens to target play-offs

HEATHENS team boss Will Pottinger says a play-off place is once again the target for his new-look Dudley side.

The former Cradley club, who will unveil a fourth signing at its Christmas Party tomorrow, have released five of the seven who took them to the verge of league title glory last season.

Dan Greenwood and new skipper Ashley Morris are the only survivors – with Lewis Blackbird, Max Clegg and Nathan Greaves joining them in the line-up.

The sixth team member will be at Cradley Heath Liberal Club to meet supporters tomorrow, when the new 2013 race jacket will also be unveiled.

Pottinger says he's delighted with how the team has been revamped.

"The team building has gone quite well over the winter," he said. "Obviously we're disappointed to lose as many of last season's team as we have, but we felt it was necessary for us to be competitive next season."

"I think the riders that we've signed are all capable of improving – especially Lewis Blackbird who is a bargain on that average."

"He's going to improve that no doubt, then we should have good strength at reserve with Max Clegg and Nathan Greaves."

"They are both going to be 15 at the start of the season so I'm very excited to work with them and see them progress over the course of the year."

"Of course we've kept Dan Greenwood, because we can see he has a lot of potential as well. He raced most of the season in the main body of the team after returning."

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettleby, Telford, Thursday, December 20, 2012.

EARLY LEAD LOST AS DK SUFFER DEFEAT

Caldy 37 Dudley Kingswinford 6
DUDLEY KINGSWINFORM, on a first trip to Caldly for 10 years, returned empty-handed.

They took an early 6-0 lead, despite losing fly-half Gareth Bown to injury after four minutes but 17 points for the Wirral club's fly-half, Richard Vasey, meant there was no reward for DK in this National Two North game.

Kicking off into a light wind on a greasy but fairly firm pitch, DK immediately found themselves under pressure as Bown's kick found touch. But the first scrum gave hope for DK as they not only held but pushed back the Caldly pack.

Bown jarred his knee and had to go off, bringing Rhys Pritchard into the fly-half position on four minutes.

A DK turnover was seized by Duncan Chance for a good break. Caldly went over the top, gifting Jon Higgins the chance to slot a penalty.

On 10 minutes a Nicholas Murphy charge drew a penalty for Higgins to push the lead to six points.

Caldly's scrum-half James Smith chipped a neat kick into the DK 22-metre area and won a penalty for not rolling away. Vasey cut the arrears.

Sliced

As Caldly's backs began to find gaps, Smith slipped the ball to Gavin Roberts who sliced open the DK defence for a try which Vasey converted for a 10-6 lead.

DK were frustrated by repeated infringements by home forwards which finally led to a yellow card for lock Jon Sewell on 31 minutes.

Holding out until half-time with 14 men gave DK fans hope of a good second half but Caldly began to move the ball around and the pace of their backs again caused problems as missed tackles and gaps appeared.

Vasey was gifted an easy penalty chance on 44 minutes after Caldly's JJ

Dudley Kingswinford

Dickinson made 40 metres and was pulled down just short of the line.

The game turned on 56 minutes as Stefan Shillingford was yellow carded for not rolling away after a tackle and Vasey's penalty made it 16-6.

DK got into the Caldly half but poor handling cost them chances. Caldly took advantage of the missing player in the centre and on 61 minutes Roberts sliced open DK's defence with an angled run which saw him touch down under the posts. Vasey converted to make it 23-6.

With Shillingford back on, DK tried to use their backs to make ground but a knock-on in midfield let Roberts pick up and score his third with Vasey converting.

DK's Higgins at scrum-half made every effort to get them going and Chance was unlucky on 76 minutes as Shillingford chipped through. Chance knocked-on as he went to touch down.

Smith took a short 22 drop-out and fed Dickinson to sprint some 60 metres to touch down in the corner. Vasey converted from wide out to round off the scoring.

Morgan gets her marching orders in title bout



Victoria Morgan, left, tries to slip a shot past the high guard of Nikita Sivera in the ABA finals at Cannock

VICTORIA MORGAN suffered heart-break in the national final of the female ABA competition with a points defeat to Army opponent Nikita Sivera.

Morgan, who boxes for Lions Amateur Boxing Club, Dudley, made the short trip to Cannock High School to compete on Sunday afternoon. And the 29-year-old was second best with the judges in the 71 kg final of Class C, for girls who have had up to five bouts, after the three rounds.

The first two sessions were fairly even with both fighters trading blows, but Sivera stepped up in the last round and that's what gained her the nod with the judges.

Clean and crisp work gave her the title and left Morgan defeated in their debut year and first fight in the competition, after a series of byes.

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